■ Entertainment / A32

LVN Pictures Inc. post production company valued at P45M

■ World / A10

Presidents, rabbis, other religious leaders hail election of new pope

■ News / A22

Joseph Ratzinger: His family, early life in pictures

■ Metro / A23

3 siblings, 2 helpers dead, 4 missing in Binondo fire

■ News / A2

Palace suspects cartelization of big oil firms

Erap in jail still darling of the masses, says poll

MAY HALONG AWA

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

DEPOSED, yes, but still trusted.

Four years after being booted out of office on accusations of corruption, despite being jailed, hauled in

ERAP/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Suicide a sacrifice to save family, says Borlongan widow

**By D.J. Yap
and Fe Zamora**

BANKER Teodoro "Ted" Borlongan's suicide was a "calculated move," a "very intelligent" decision for which his eldest child Kathy has the deepest respect.

It was neither an act of cowardice nor a mo-

SUICIDE/ A8

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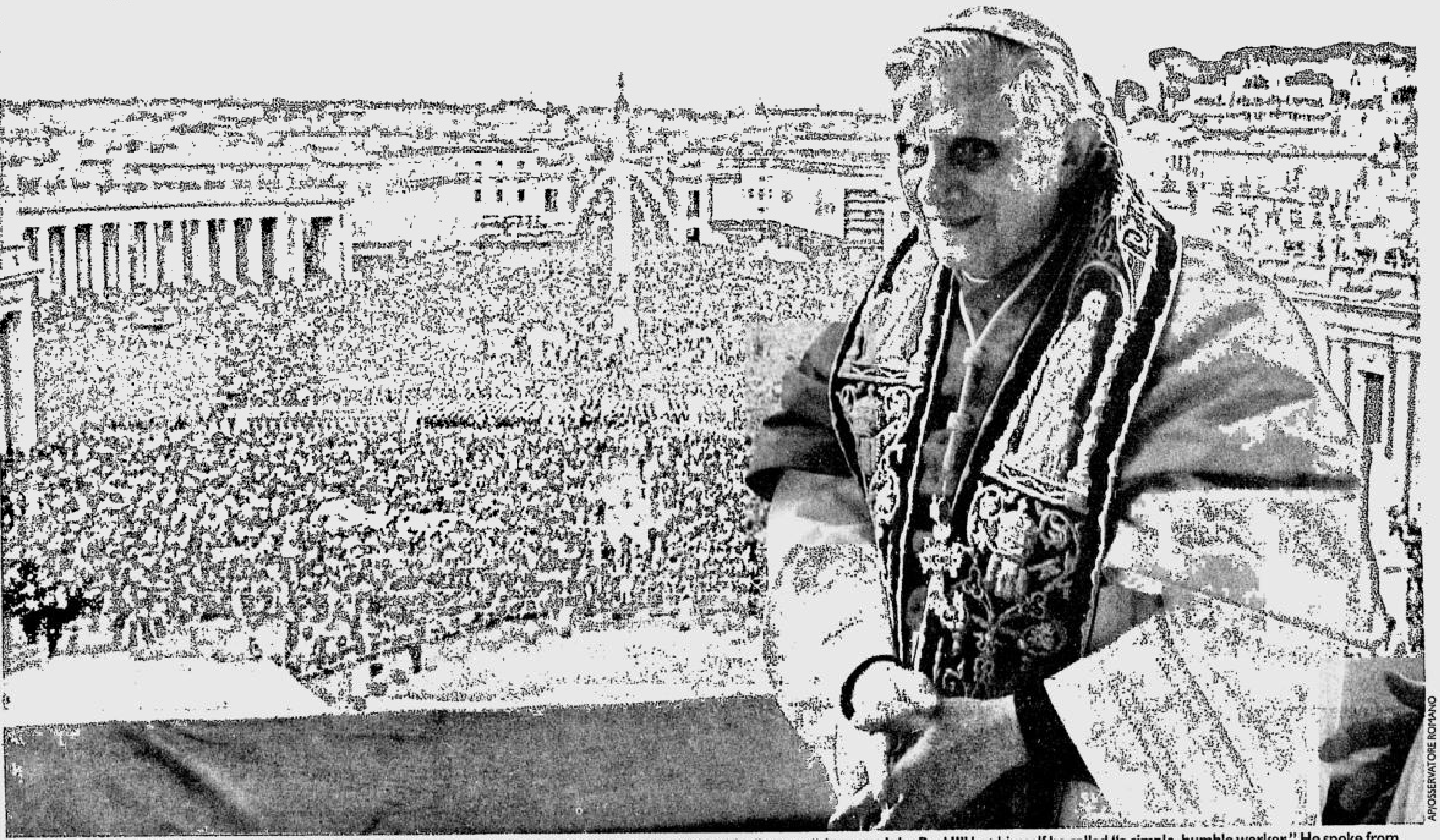
Pope opens arms to all faiths


AP/OSSERVATORE ROMANO

AS TENS OF THOUSANDS cheered below, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI spoke his first words which paid tribute to "the great John Paul II" but himself he called "a simple, humble worker." He spoke from the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square where he also gave his first papal blessing to the city and to the world. Ratzinger's election to the seat of St. Peter ended one of the shortest conclaves in 100 years.

GMA signed national ID system, says Ermita

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Armand Nocum**

SENIOR Cabinet officials yesterday confirmed that President Macapagal-Arroyo has signed an executive order implementing a national identification system in the country.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that the EO on the national ID system had been signed by the President but would not discuss the EO's contents or furnish a copy of the document.

In a telephone interview with INQ7.net, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that the President had indeed signed the EO.

Gonzalez said the executive department was finalizing the details of the EO, such as its implementing guidelines and other legal issues.

"It's more than a draft now, but it's not yet final," he said.

He said this was confirmed to him by Ermita who had been in a meeting with him in Malacañang.

Ermita had been quoted in a dzBB radio report yesterday that the President had signed the EO.

In an earlier telephone inter-

GMA SIGNED/ A9

'Concrete acts that move consciences are needed'

"I SEEM to feel his strong hand holding mine, I feel I can see his smiling eyes and hear his words, at this moment particularly directed at me: 'Be not afraid,'" Pope Benedict fondly refers to his idolized Pope John Paul II in his first homily since his election to the papacy. Picture of the two taken in 2003. AP/OSSERVATORE ROMANO

VATICAN CITY—Moving swiftly to allay fears that his papacy would be rigidly inward-looking, Pope Benedict XVI pledged in his first homily Wednesday to work to reach out to other faiths, and made clear his pontificate would closely follow that of his predecessor.

Speaking in Latin, German-born Joseph Ratzinger said he felt a sense of inadequacy after being elected pontiff, but believed John Paul II was guiding him at the start of his papacy.

"I seem to feel [his] strong hand holding mine, I seem to see his smiling eyes and hear him speaking to me at this moment, saying: 'Don't be afraid'," he told the 114 cardinals who had picked him and who were seated around the chapel.

Widely expected to be a stern defender of Roman Catholic orthodoxy, the new Pope said in his first public Mass that his "primary task" would be to work without fail to reunify all Christians and that sentiment alone was not enough.

"Concrete acts that enter souls and move consciences are needed," he said.

The silver-haired Pontiff said his election, which came in one of the fastest conclaves of modern times, had been a surprise and had filled him with "human turmoil."

Benedict listed top priorities of his pontificate.

"I welcome everybody with simplicity and love to assure

POPE/ A21

Issues threatening to split Church

VATICAN CITY—The papacy of Benedict XVI, which is expected to build upon the uncompromising hard line on doctrine that he charted under Pope John Paul II, threatens to split the Church.

"If he continues as pope the way he was as a cardinal, I think we will see a polarized Church," said David Gibson, a former Vatican radio reporter and author of "The Coming Catholic Church."

"He has said himself that he wanted a smaller but purer Church," Gibson said, referring to the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's suggestion that Christianity may need to become smaller, in terms of its cultural significance, to remain true to itself.

A day before he was elected pope, Ratzinger made clear the type of Church he wanted: One that rigidly maintained the doctrines he himself had upheld as

ISSUES/ A21

GMA, Sin hail election of Ratzinger

By Leila B. Salaverria

ONE OF the countless Filipinos who stayed up late to watch on television the elevation of Joseph Ratzinger to the papacy was a sickly prelate and the new Pontiff's old friend—Jaime Cardinal Sin.

And the Filipino cardinal was a very happy man when he finally retired for the night, Sin's private secretary Fr. Rufino Sescon said yesterday.

"He [Sin] said the new Pope is a bright and good man. They belong to the same tradition. He is a good friend," Sescon said.

Not too many Filipinos know that the newly installed Pope Benedict XVI and Sin were together in the 1978 conclave which resulted in the election of the late John Paul II's elevation to the papacy.

Sin, who is undergoing dialysis, was eligible to vote in the papal conclave but was too ill to make the trip to the Vatican.

Sin and many Roman Catholics across the country, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, welcomed the election of the new Pope.

"The Filipino people join the family of nations and all faiths in rejoicing [over] the election of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the new Pope," Ms Arroyo said.

"Our people send him prayers

GMA, SIN/ A22

Stop paying nuke plant debt, SC justice urges gov't

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Supreme Court Associate Justice Reynato Puno has urged the government to consider stopping payments for loans that the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos borrowed to build the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

Speaking at the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' 10th national convention here Tuesday night, Puno said international experts had taken the position that foreign bankers, who knowingly lent to corrupt governments, were liable for graft.

"[Several foreign creditors] knew or had no reason not to know that the loans will be used for some illegitimate purpose like supporting notoriously brazen and kleptocratic military regimes," Puno said at the convention whose theme is "Alleviating Poverty and Resolving the Fiscal Crisis."

Puno said these creditors need not be paid because they were parties to the crime. Citing Noreen Hertz, an economist at the University of Cambridge, Puno said "there are debts which should be considered illegitimate and therefore should not be paid."

"Nearer home, the finger points

STOP/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/04/21/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Palace hints at oil cartelization

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday asked oil companies to be transparent so the public would not suspect them as a cartel.

Oil companies in the country have launched a massive media campaign to dispel the notion created by President Macapagal-Arroyo that the firms were colluding with each other to keep oil prices at prohibitive levels.

"The President has already declared that it is important to review the so-called cartelization of the oil situation where only three firms are talking about the price of oil," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on dwIZ radio.

To dispel the perception that the oil firms had formed a cartel, they should show the basis for their price adjustments, Bunye said.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has ordered the oil companies to explain the 75-centavo per liter increase over the weekend in the retail prices of gasoline and diesel. The amount is 50 percent bigger than the weekly 50-centavo per liter hike since March.

"We all know that oil prices have been rising in the world market but what we have to know how much really is its effect on domestic prices?" Bunye said.

He said that the DOE order for an explanation from oil companies was reasonable and that Malacañang expected the players to comply "early."

The government has been lenient in policing the oil industry even though the Oil Deregulation Law allows it to look into the industry's pricing and market strategies to check abuses.

But a few weeks ago, Ms Arroyo declared her support for plans to amend the Oil Deregulation Law to toughen its anti-cartel provisions.

Contingency plan

Ms Arroyo has also ordered a "contingency plan" drawn up to explore the government's options should there be further rises in oil prices, which have spurred street protests and boosted inflation.

"This contingency plan ... is calibrated to deal with the risks depending on the level of oil prices," Bunye said.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla will submit the plan to Ms Arroyo in the next few days.

Some members of the House of Representatives have suggested that Ms Arroyo be given emergency powers to deal with the high fuel prices.

But senators yesterday rejected the proposal.

"It's going to be a no-brainer. She (the President) can't get it," Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the Senate energy committee, said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senators Joker Arroyo, Mar Roxas and Manuel Villar also objected to the proposal.

No chance

Santiago said there was no chance Congress would grant Ms Arroyo emergency powers.

"In the first place this is not an extraordinary emergency as contemplated by the Constitution because these oil price hikes are already periodic features of the international global economy," Santiago said.

She said the President's powers were enough to enable her to protect the public interest.

Pangilinan said the President had enough powers if she really wanted to check the operations of the oil cartel.

"The DOE has visitorial powers over the oil companies. If she (the President) really wants to know if the price hikes are justified, there is no need for emergency powers. She only needs political will," Pangilinan said.

Villar said many people were scared of emergency powers. "I think she should just instruct the DOE to open the books (of oil companies)."

Check books

For his part, Roxas said the move of Lotilla to check the books of the oil companies should be encouraged.

Roxas earlier said the DOE could scrutinize the books of the oil companies, declare the price hikes unjustified and even impose penalties.

"We should not rely on NGOs (non-government organizations) to tell us whether the prices are too high," he said.

In the House of Representatives, some legislators are pushing for the full ownership of Petron Corp. by the government.

Party-list lawmakers are readying a measure authorizing Malacañang, through the DOE, to recover the privatized shares of the oil company.

Forty-percent of Petron is owned by the government, while Saudi Aramco also owns 40 percent of Petron. The remaining 20 percent is owned by the public. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Budget deficit up but within target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government's budget deficit reached P63.5 billion in the first quarter this year, higher by 11.6 percent than the P56.8 billion deficit incurred in the same period last year.

The budget deficit, however, is 18 percent lower than the P77.8-billion target set by the government.

The Department of Finance said the government had to set a deficit target for the first quarter that was higher than last year's figure because it had to shoulder P7-billion worth of interest payments on debts of the state-owned National Power Corp.

Starting this year, the government will assume Napocor's P200-billion debts to help clean up its books in line with its privatization program. But for 2005, the government will shoulder only P18.1 billion of the Napocor debts.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said that although the budget deficit grew in the first quarter, the government remains on track of its goal of keeping the budget gap at or below P180 billion for the whole of 2005. Last year, the government incurred a budget deficit of P187 billion.

"First quarter is normally the season when revenue collection is on the lean side," he said, adding that revenues are expected to improve beginning the second quarter when most taxes are paid.

"I don't want to be overly confident, but at least we are ahead of the program," Cruz said in a press briefing.

Data from the DOF showed that the P63.5-billion deficit for the first quarter was due to the P172.6 billion in revenue collection and P236.1 billion in expenditures.

Revenues for the quarter were 13.1 percent higher than the P152.6 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Of the total revenues, the tax collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the biggest revenue contributor among government agencies, accounted for P109.7 billion. The BIR collection figure was 10.8 percent better than last year, but below its P111.1-billion target.

The Bureau of Customs accounted for P31.2 billion of the total revenues. The BOC's revenue collection was, however, lower than its P32.6-billion target. It was the first time in more than a year that the BOC failed to meet its collection target.

The Bureau of Treasury generated P20.8 billion in revenues, while other offices contributed P11 billion.

On the expenditure side, interest payments accounted for the biggest share of the P82.9-billion in expenditures for the quarter. A total of P30 billion was spent by the government on interest payments on debts.

Personal services accounted for P24 billion, while allotment to local government units stood at P9.4 billion. Capital outlays reached P9.4 billion, while net lending reached P2.8 billion. Net lending is the amount lent to government-owned and -controlled corporations. Other operating expenses amounted to P7.4 billion.

Nora arraigned on LA drug raps today

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES —Filipino superstar Nora Aunor is set to be arraigned today at a courthouse in the Los Angeles airport for alleged possession of eight grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride, more popularly known as shabu in the Philippines.

Aunor, whose real name is Nora Cabaltera Villamayor, will enter a plea before a Los Angeles Superior Court judge at 8:30 a.m., according to her lawyer.

The 51-year-old actress was arrested on March 30 after a random check at Terminal 1 of the Los Angeles International Airport. Previous reports said security screeners allegedly found the substance and a glass pipe wrapped in a T-shirt in her carry-on bag.

She was booked at the Van Nuys jail on a felony drug possession count and was released after posting $10,000 bail.

It was reported that Aunor arrived in Los Angeles from Oakland at around 7:45 p.m. and was scheduled to leave at around 9 or 10 p.m.

Asked what Aunor was doing in the United States and where she was going when apprehended, one of her lawyers, Sherwin Edelberg of the law offices of Edelberg & Espina, said: "She was coming here to prepare for her concerts."

According to fan sites, the Philippine movie icon spends much of her time in the US and owns a house in Linda Vista, close to San Diego.

As an actress, Aunor has made more than 170 movies opposite leading men of her time, including ousted President Joseph Estrada. Last year, she was in the forefront of the campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was then seeking a full six-year term.

Edelberg said they expected the arraignment to be finished in three to four minutes. "[A]ll we do is just get a copy of the complaint. Then we enter a plea and get a court date for what is called a preliminary hearing," he said.

If the case goes on trial, Edelberg explained, it could last from five to 10 days.

Under the California law, penalty for such offense is from zero time to 18 months in jail, he said.

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1 of 20 Road Rollers
SAKAI SV160D VIBRO ROLLER
1 of 85 Dump Trucks
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ISUZU 8W TANK LORRY SINGLE-EYE
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MUSHARRAF IN CONGRESS

'Dictator lecturing us on democracy'

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

HOW dare a "dictator" lecture the Philippines on democracy, thundered a party-list representative from Mindanao, expressing outrage at Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's address before a joint session of Congress on Tuesday.

"He has no moral ascendancy to lecture us on the fine points of democracy," said Anak ng Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman, noting that Musharraf's record on human rights and democratic principles in his Islamic country was not exactly clean.

The Muslim lawmaker said it was the ex-military general who should sit down with Filipino leaders to learn more about the lofty concepts he spoke of.

Musharraf padlocked the Pakistani national assembly when he took power by coup d'etat in 1999, and resisted outside pressure to move quickly to restore civilian rule. He ruled Pakistan with an iron fist from 1991 until he transferred the powers of the chief executive to an elected prime minister in 2002.

"I did not applaud him. Why should I?" said Hataman.

He was outraged that Congress, far from rebuking the visiting leader, applauded Musharraf 22 times during a 28-minute speech which also touched on terrorism, regional and world stability, women empowerment, private sector participation in economic progress and poverty alleviation in Pakistan.

Speaker Jose de Venecia called Musharraf a "spokesman of Muslim moderation" who should be supported by the world to ensure that Pakistan's nuclear weapons would not fall into terrorist hands.

In his speech, Musharraf said it was "ironic that a man in uniform [would] be talking about democracy."

But he said that the only way to transform his country into a "modern and moderate Islamic state" was through his doctrine of "enlightened moderation" that he said would put Pakistan on an irreversible path to democracy and socio-economic progress.

He said this was not the same as the Western and Philippine notion of democracy, noting that each nation evolves its own system of democracy based on its own traditions and tailored to its own environment.

Hataman said Musharraf's call for Muslims to "shun the path of confrontation" should not have been directed only at Muslim rebels but also at Malacañang and the military.

What could have been a crucial policy speech from an Islamic leader turned into an avenue to brag about his achievements, Hataman said.

Appearing yesterday at a forum hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Musharraf turned his sights on the Muslim insurgency in Mindanao.

Solons want public hospitals probed

TWO lawmakers yesterday sought an investigation into the alleged questionable procurement of drugs and medical supplies by at least seven hospitals being administered by the Department of Health

In a resolution filed Monday, Reps. Fernejel Biron (Kampi, Iloilo) and Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) wanted to summon DOH officials to explain the procurement practice in the hospitals.

Biron claimed that some hospital authorities had set aside public bidding in favor of direct drug purchases from "favored suppliers."

He also cited cases of procurement from suppliers on consignment basis and cozy arrangement with big local supplier in exchange for the repair of a section of a hospital. There were also transactions, he added, in which prices of medicines were more expensive compared to drugs sold in commercial drugstores.

"In absolute terms, there is a low budget for drugs. If we buy expensive medicines (with a small budget), our drug purchases would shrink further," Biron said. *Dano Angelo Tingcungco*

SC chides BIR for bungling tax case

By Armand N. Nocum

EVEN as the Bureau of Internal Revenue has lately shown its seriousness about going after tax evaders, the Supreme Court yesterday took the agency to task for bungling a P115-million tax evasion case by submitting as evidence mere photocopies of tax assessments records.

The high court ordered the tax evasion case against the Hantex Trading, a firm engaged in the sale of plastic products and in the importation of resin used in the manufacture of plastics, remanded to the Court of Tax Appeals for further investigation.

In its ruling, dated March 31 but released to the media only yesterday, the SC chided the BIR and the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau for relying on photocopies of documents obtained from an informer for their evidence.

It cited a previous SC ruling providing that tax assessments "must be based on actual facts" and not photocopies.

In a related development, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday ordered the issuance of a hold departure order against ethnic Chinese tycoon Jimmy Gaw who was formally charged with tax evasion on Tuesday.

Gaw was accused of failing to file and pay taxes on the more than P4.3 billion that he earned from a cellular card business in 2001.

Also yesterday, Acting Chief State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon admitted that there were some gray areas in the tax exemptions granted to religious organizations. This frequently led to abuses by some unscrupulous religious groups, he said.

Fadullon said the government was now now looking into plugging this loophole.

In the Hantex case, it was the defunct EIIB that first took action against the firm, claiming that it imported resin worth P115 million in 1987 but declared only P45 million in importations.

The EIIB based the amount on 77 consumption of entries (CE) certificates issued by the Bureau of Customs for the importation of goods.

But the EIIB, later backed by the BIR, only submitted photocopies of the CEs.

In its decision, the SC said the EIIB justified its failure to "secure certified copies of the respondent's 1987 CEs from the (Bureau of Customs)" by saying that "the original copies had been eaten by termites."

But the high court noted that CEs are submitted in "sextuplicate" and that apart from the BOC, copies were also furnished the Tariff and Customs Commission, the BIR, the terminal operator, among others.

"The court can only surmise why the EIIB or the BIR, for that matter, failed to secure certified copies of the said entries from the Tariff and Customs Commission or from the National Statistics Office which also had copies thereof," the court said.

It said the EIIB and the BIR opted to get photocopies of the CE from an "informer."

"Inexplicably, the (EIIB) and the BIR personnel ignored the (CE) filed with the BIR and relied on photocopies supplied by the informer of the EIIB who secured the same from another informer," the SC said.

It said such evidence "are mere scraps of paper and are of no probative weight if offered as proof of the contents thereof."

In the case of Gaw, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the charges would "give impetus to our tax evasion campaign."

Gaw, president and general manager of Celpage International Corp., was formally charged with tax evasion before the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court after DOJ prosecutors found "prima facie evidence" pointing to his non-payment of taxes.

"This is part of the government's intensification of tax collection. This not the first time. Our evidence are the records of the BIR. There is proof that he purchased so much value of cell cards," Gonzalez said.

Palace hints at pay, fare increase on Labor Day

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

WITH a little over a week before Labor Day, Malacañang yesterday revealed that it was close to granting the most avid demand of minimum wage workers and transport groups—higher wages and higher transport fares.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told labor and transports groups to expect "some adjustments" in the the minimum wage and fare on or before May 1. The Palace's change of tune came after the labor and transport groups threatened to join their forces and launch a mammoth strike to press on their demands on Labor Day.

"We believe that the ongoing review on the wage hike is timely considering the high cost of goods and services with surging oil prices. The trigger point here is the increase in transport fare which we believe cannot be postponed any longer because the last fare hike was made two to three years ago," said Bunye in an interview with dzRH radio.

The labor sector is pushing for an across-the-board wage hike of P125 a day while transport groups are petitioning for a P2.50 increase in the minimum fare. Bunye said the wage increase petition was already under review by the Regional Wage Board while the fare increase petition was close to being decided by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

Bunye, however, could not say when these adjustments would be put in place although Malacañang reckoned it would be ideal to have them on or before Labor Day.

"We don't want to be seen as rushing (these items) even if our goal is to provide relief to the working class," Bunye said. "What is important is that we are reviewing this matter seriously and we understand the needs of our countrymen."

Malacañang has been deferring moves to increase wages initially to keep inflation rates low and minimize the impact on the broader consumer population. Later, Malacañang insisted on keeping wages and fares unchanged throughout 2004 apparently because President Macapagal-Arroyo was running for election.

But with oil prices soaring to record highs and domestic oil companies changing pump prices weekly, Malacañang has no choice but to increase wages to help the masses cope with the high cost of living (which has been pegged at double the minimum wage) and increase fares because drivers and operators could not afford to absorb rising costs of operations and the fuel discounts have become negligible.

Loren misunderstood us, says Noli's lawyer

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER Sen. Loren Legarda "misunderstood" Vice President Noli de Castro's "honest intention" when he asked the Supreme Court to require her to immediately put up the money needed for the recount of votes in questioned provinces in connection with her election protest.

This was according to lawyer Romulo Macalintal, one of De Castro's counsels in the electoral protest filed by Legarda before the high court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

Macalintal said the protestant should instead be happy that his client wanted to expedite the resolution of her election protest.

Legarda had castigated De Castro and his lawyers for reducing her election protest before the PET into a "show me the color of (your) money" contest when they asked the PET to require her to fulfill the financial requirements for the start of the recount of questioned votes in the May 2004 vice presidential contest.

She stressed that it was not the job of De Castro or his lawyers to tell her how much she should raise and pay for the expenses of her election protest since this was the job of the PET.

But Macalintal said Legarda overreacted since the figures they quoted in the omnibus motion were provided for in the law and the PET Rules of Procedures.

"It's wrong to say that we want to resolve the protest in terms of money or reduce it into a show me the color of money contest. That's not our intention," Macalintal told the INQUIRER.

"I'm surprised because Loren is the first protestant to say this. She should know that the amount quoted therein did not come from us. We only stated what's in the law. Her lawyers know that," he said.

Macalintal also took exception to Legarda's charge that they were trying to preempt the PET when it asked her to produce at least P18.7 million – P11.7 million for the recount of votes and P7 million for the compensation of revisors to set the case in motion.

"We're not taking the role of the Supreme Court. She should remember that as lawyers, we're officers of the court. The role of a lawyer is to assist the court in the expeditious resolution of the case, and what we did was one way of helping the court," he said.

At the rate the case is moving, Macalintal said it would probably take two more months before the recount could begin.

He said the ballot boxes in the custody of Congress merely contained election returns and that the boxes containing actual ballots in questioned provinces would have to be shipped to the Supreme Court once the recount starts.

Legarda is seeking a recanvass of election returns in five provinces and nine municipalities involving 12,105 precincts, as well as revision or recount of ballots in 39 provinces and five cities involving 124,400 precincts.

She initially identified Cebu, Pampanga and Maguindanao as provinces where massive fraud was committed and Lanao del Sur, Lanao de Norte and Surigao del Sur where "manifest electoral errors" were allegedly reported.

Legarda was confident that she would be able to overtake De Castro's more than 800,000 vote-lead in the elections once the recount of votes in the pilot provinces begins.

But Macalintal said Legarda was mistaken, saying the outcome of the recount would affirm De Castro's victory over her.

"We want to inform the public and Legarda that Noli de Castro is not afraid of the result of the recount because he's confident that he won in the election," Macalintal said.

Another general faces graft raps

ANOTHER military general is facing graft and corruption charges for allegedly cheating the government in the construction of school facilities in the Bicol region

Brig. Gen. Cesar Pahati Gopilan, head of the Army's engineering unit, is the latest high-ranking military official to be accused of graft in the government's sweeping anti-corruption drive.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo yesterday said in a statement that Gopilan allegedly connived with two private construction firms and "intentionally cheated the government by using substandard materials and abandoning their work" in a major school building project in Albay and Camarines Sur and Norte.

According to Marcelo, Gopilan will be charged along with civilians Elmer Aytona and Jorge Javier for violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act with the Sandiganbayan.

A report by investigators from the Office of the Ombudsman said Gopilan had assigned to five Army engineer brigades the construction of 220,000 school facilities under a project previously approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A total of P50.68 million had been released by the Presidential Management Staff to the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the school building assistance program.

The report said many of the facilities had defects or had been abandoned by their contractors, the Edibok Construction and General Merchandise of Aytona and Javier Construction Trading of Javier.

Marcelo said that P3 million in additional funding had to be released by the government to complete the project.

Ms Arroyo launched a crackdown against corrupt military officers to ease rumblings among the military's junior officers demanding reforms.

Among those already charged are Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, whose sons were arrested at a US airport for allegedly trying to smuggle in hundreds of thousands of dollars, and Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, former AFP comptroller, who had been accused of amassing close to P67 million in unexplained wealth. Garcia is on trial in a military court.

In 2003, Arroyo survived a revolt by some 300 junior officers and men who accused their generals of pocketing huge amounts of money while soldiers died without boots fighting insurgencies in the countryside. *With reports from Nelson Flores and AFP*

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ERAP'S 'PERSONAL LAUNDERER'

Witness admits she didn't see Dichaves open bank account

A DEFENSE witness who earlier testified that deposed President Estrada did not own the controversial Jose Velarde account yesterday told a Sandiganbayan hearing that she did not see businessman Jaime Dichaves open the account at the PCI-Equitable Bank or sign his name as Jose Velarde.

Estrada's defense panel has maintained that the controversial account was owned by Dichaves, a known crony of the detained ex-president.

Bagsit, a former PCI-Equitable first vice president, was presented as the 32nd defense witness in the plunder suit against Estrada that is being heard by the antigraft court.

Under questioning by Associate Justice Francisco Villaruz, Bagsit admitted that she did not see Dichaves sign the bank's specimen card.

She also said it was entirely possible that Dichaves operated the account although he did not own it.

In earlier testimony, Bagsit acknowledged knowing about the Velarde account only through her superior at the bank, Romualdo Dy Tang, who handed her a letter from Dichaves where it was indicated that Dichaves owned the account.

Bagsit also said that she came to know the lawyer of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, Edward Serapio, through another superior, George L. Go, who was known in PCI-Equitable circles by his initials "GLG".

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said Bagsit's testimony clearly showed that she was Estrada's "personal launderer."

He also noted that Bagsit's testimony was mostly hearsay because she was merely "relying" on documents that were handed to her.

"If the account is indeed owned by Dichaves as the defense panel claim, then why would San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor JV Ejercito, one of Estrada's sons, deposit P182 million from his Urban Bank account to Velarde's?" Marcelo asked.

"JV has no relation with Dichaves," Marcelo said.

The Ombudsman also noted that the letter "J" in the Jose Velarde signature resembled the "J" in Joseph Estrada's signature more than it did the "J" in Jose Dichaves signature.

After presenting Bagsit, the defense panel offered the testimony of Maria Lourdes Florendo, an executive assistant at the Office of the Vice President and a former personal secretary of Estrada.

Florendo, the defense panel's 33rd witness, testified that she did not know Emma Lim and that Lim did not gave her a black bag containing P5 million from Ilocos Sur. Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson for the former president, a claim that Lim made during Estrada's impeachment trial.

"I do not know her nor have even seen her," Florendo said of Lim.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio opposed Florendo's testimony after defense lawyer Cleofe Verzola failed to present an original copy of the Lim st atement that was being questioned by the defense witness.

The court, however, allowed Florendo's testimony but said its acceptance into the court records would be contingent on the presentation and submission of an original copy of Lim's testimony.

Nelson F. Flores

Erap camp bucks tag as agents of destabilization

By Norman Bordadora

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay, a member of the executive council of the United Opposition, yesterday branded as foul the tagging of forces supportive of deposed President Joseph Estrada as potential agents of destabilization as the anniversary of the so-called Edsa 3 and the nationwide observance of Labor Day drew near.

Binay registered his protest following the briefing on security threats made by National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director General Avelino Razon before Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and the Metro Manila mayors yesterday.

Razon told the local chief executives that the threat of destabilization is minimal considering the improbability of various groups critical of the government to unite and pose a serious threat to the Arroyo administration even in the wake of continued oil price hikes that led to the recent transport strike.

In his briefing, the Metro Manila regional police chief identified the Communist Party of the Philippines, militant organizations and the "pro-Erap" forces as those that might come up with destabilization efforts as May 1 approaches.

"To lump us together with subversives is, I think, foul," Binay said in his reply.

"This is the reason why we are strengthening the United Opposition. Dissent is the bulwark of democracy," the Makati mayor added.

Lucas; 67

JESUS P. Lucas, a former police lieutenant, of Makati City and Tondo, Manila died of heart failure on April 12 at the age of 67. He is survived by his wife Olivia Lara, sons Jay Joseph, Mark Oliver, Francis John and daughter Sararuth.

His body now lies at 2565 Vargas St., J. Abad Santos, Tondo, Manila. Interment is on Saturday, at 9 a.m. at the La Loma Cemetery.

Correction

IN THE TWO-PART commentary, "A Filipino perspective on John Paul's successor," on Page A1 April 18-19, the author Jose P. Leviste Jr. was misstated to be an economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Corporate Network. He is an economist with the Philippine Business Leaders Forum, which is an associate of Corporate Network, an exclusive membership-based senior executive briefing and networking service of the EIU.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, April 21, 2005
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 13:13-25
Gospel:	John 13:16-20

After Jesus had washed the feet of the disciples he said. "Truly, I say to you, the servant is not greater than his master, nor is the messenger greater than he who sent him. Understand this, and blessed are you if you put it into practice.

"I am not speaking of you all, because I know the ones I have chosen and the Scripture has to be fulfilled that says, The one who shared my table has risen against me. I tell you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may know that I am He.

"Truly, I say to you, whoever welcomes the one I send, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me."

Commentary

This is what we are to look like in the world and how we are to live. We are servants who follow our Master. Jesus has just washed his disciples' feet and commanded us to do the same to one another. We are to do this not only ritually but every day of our lives. Whose feet do we wash? And then he reminds us that even though his disciples ate with him, they still betrayed him: Judas for money and power, but Peter in words publicly cursing him and the others running and hiding from any association with him. [And we will know that among the members of the Church.] But his words speak of welcome too—of those who will go before him, bringing his Word and Bread to others and that if we welcome anyone who is sent by God, then we welcome Jesus and we welcome the Father who sends Jesus. The instruction is all about openness and communion, dwelling with God and with one another in service and worship. Who are we sent to in God's name to serve? Who do we welcome in God's name?

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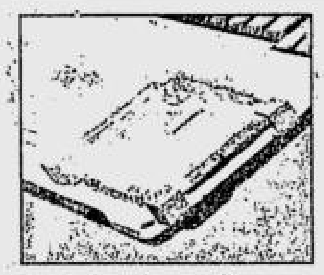

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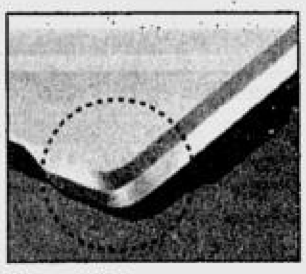

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Peace with MILF is top military priority, says AFP chief

FORGING peace with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is the military's "priority," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu said yesterday.

The government and the MILF resumed formal peace talks in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

"The statement of their leadership is that they do not coddle (terrorists). And we believe that unless proven otherwise," Abu said in a chance interview yesterday.

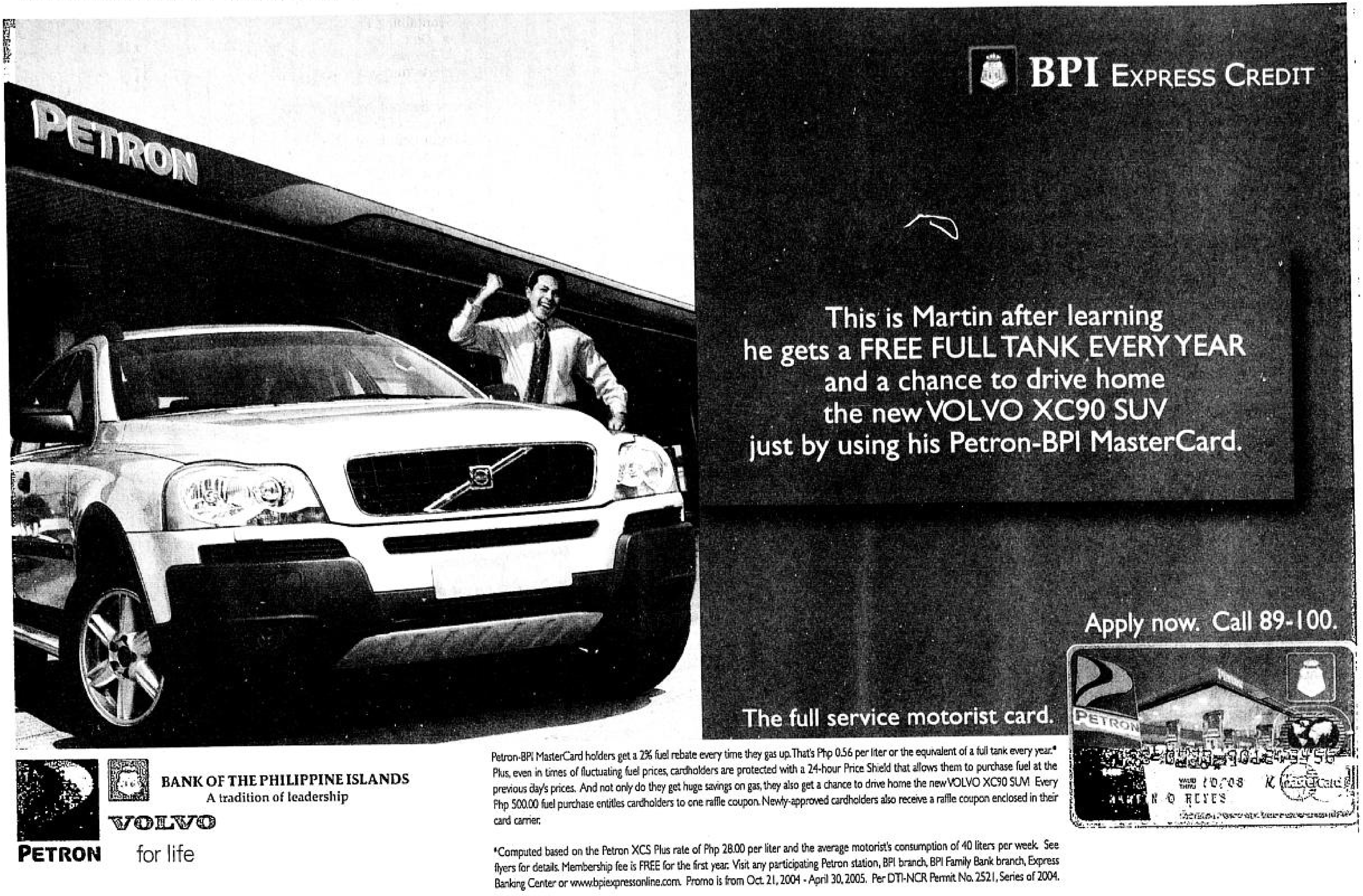
"The peace talks is our primary concern. It is a priority. We believe that if we forge a peace (settlement) with the MILF, we'll have a better chance of running after the Abu Sayyaf Group later on," he added.

Abu defended the military air strike and ground assault on an MILF camp in the Butilan Marsh in Datu Piang, Maguindanao on Friday.

The MILF accused the military of violating a ceasefire agreement.

It said the military operation that was supposedly aimed at Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists, killed two of their members and wounded five other rebels.

"When we conduct an air strike, it's because we have very reliable information. We do not do that just because we want to," Abu said.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Stop paying nuke plant debt, SC justice urges gov't

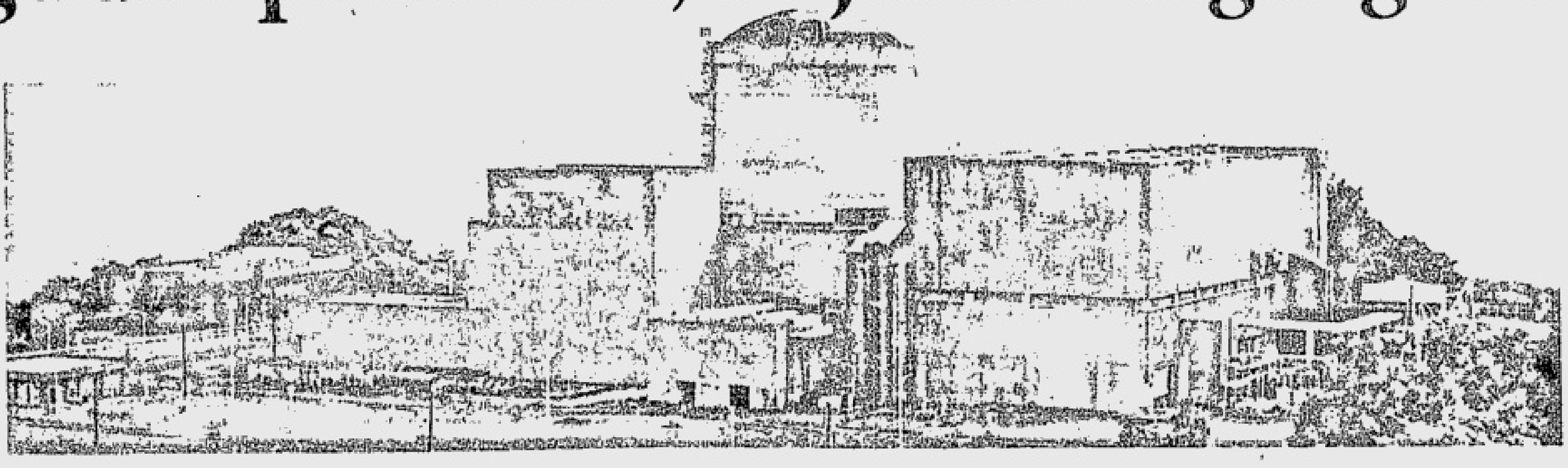
From page A1

to the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, which was built in 1976 and which cost us $1.9 billion in loans," he said. [Some reports placed the total cost of the plant at $2.3 billion.]

Puno noted that the Philippines was shelling out $170,000 daily (P9.35 million a day or P3.4 billion a year) for the BNPP loans and that the payments would continue until 2018.

Servicing the country's debts now accounts for the largest government expenditure, overtaking salaries of government workers in the national budget of P907.56 billion for 2005, according to Puno.

The tragedy is that Filipinos have not benefited from a single watt of electricity from the nuclear plant, which was constructed on a known earthquake fault, according to former National Treasurer Leonor Briones. *(See In the Know)*



Debt repudiation

Puno said debt repudiation was nothing new.

The United States repudiated Cuba's debts to Spain in 1898 at about the time it acquired the Philippines from Spain at the end of the Spanish-American War, according to the justice.

Today, he said South Africa, which is under black majority rule, had started questioning its obligation to repay loans acquired during the apartheid government.

He also said activists in the Iraqi government were questioning their foreign debts, which were secured by Saddam Hussein "to buy the knives that slaughtered them."

Making accountable businessmen, who were parties to a crime, also has a precedent, according to Puno.

Nuremberg Trials

He said the Nuremberg Trials at the end of World War II, which tried Nazi leaders for war crimes, also convicted businessmen who knowingly collaborated with the Nazis and were therefore as guilty as the people who brutalized the Jews in gas chambers.

Puno suggested that the government seek either a payment scheme similar to the Section 11 clause in the United States for bankrupt taxpayers, or a federal debt protection scheme covering American towns.

He said these schemes shield bankrupt individuals or entities from the forfeiture of their assets, protect their ability to earn, and in the case of the Philippines, its ability to continue supplying public services.

A federal law grants American municipal towns protection from creditors, enabling them to continue restructuring debts without sacrificing the quality of public service.

But Puno points out that the US law bars the towns from issuing new taxes to pay for their debts.

PARTIES to the "crime" that was and is the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant need not be paid, says a thoughtful Justice Reynato Puno. The idle structure bleeds taxpayers about $155,000 daily for debt-servicing. PDI PHOTO FILE

Puno said Hertz's proposal to put up a system patterned after the US bankruptcy laws to help developing countries could be applicable to most Asian nations burdened by debts, which were obtained by graft-ridden governments.

He said government should seek international support for an independent "ad hoc intermediary group" that would assist heavily indebted Third World countries.

Three Mile Island

It was another Puno who stopped the BNPP project. Former Justice Secretary Ricardo Puno was tasked by Marcos with assessing the condition of the plant in light of the 1979 breakdown at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania.

International experts have listed the BNPP's safety violations, including its susceptibility to an earthquake-induced damage. The Puno Commission eventually declared the plant unsafe.

But despite its mothballing, the administration of former President Corazon Aquino decided to continue paying the loans after the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

IN THE KNOW

Bataan Nuclear Power Plant

The late President Ferdinand Marcos envisioned the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) as the best solution to the energy crisis in the 1970s. It was expected to generate 3.8 billion KwH per year and was projected then to provide a foreign exchange saving of $215.4 million annually in terms of imported oil that would otherwise be required to generate the same output.

But the 620-megawatt plant has been controversial from the day construction began and has become one of the biggest burden for Filipino taxpayers.

Between 1986 and 1998, Filipino taxpayers paid a total of P46.4 billion in servicing the loans for the nuclear plant.

The plant sits on a 357-hectare government reservation at Napot Point in Morong, Bataan. Its construction began in 1975 and was completed in 1984 at a cost of $2.3 billion, bloated from the initial estimated cost of only $600 million allegedly due to payoffs to some government officials.

In April 1986, President Corazon Aquino mothballed the BNPP because of safety defects and sued Westinghouse for overpricing and allegations of bribery even as the government continued paying Westinghouse the cost of building the plant.

In July 2004, the Sandiganbayan ordered the arrest of businessman Herminio T. Disini, a golfing buddy of Marcos, who allegedly received $18 million in bribes from two American firms that won the contract to build the plant.

Officials from the Office of the Ombudsman said Disini had "requested and received" $1 million from Burns and Roe and $17 million from Westinghouse.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government charged Disini with bribing Marcos to induce the latter to award the project to the two US firms. The payoffs were allegedly received by companies co-owned by Marcos and Disini.

There were plans to convert the nuclear facility into a gas-fired plant. But feasibility studies showed that the conversion of the facility using another type of fuel could cost more than $600 million, an amount enough to finance an entirely new power plant.

PDI Research

SOURCES: PDI ARCHIVES, NPC ANNUAL REPORT, DBM

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BICAM STALEMATE

Senators stick to their guns on 10% VAT

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE contingent in the bicameral conference committee on the value-added tax is sticking to its guns on maintaining the rate at 10 percent, claiming the P60 billion revenue target can be met without having to increase the rate.

"There has been no change in our position. We have not blinked," said Sen. Manuel Villar in Filipino.

Sen. Ralph Recto, the chair of the Senate ways and means committee and head of the Senate panel, said the House proposal to increase the VAT by two percentage points to 12 percent would be bad not just for consumers but also for business.

He claimed the Senate version would yield P89 billion without raising the rate. He showed an itemized computation that P62.3 billion could be obtained at 70 percent efficiency of collection and P89 billion at full implementation.

"And the beauty of this is the burden-sharing, meaning to say that of the realizable P80 billion, roughly P40 billion is from business and P40 billion is from consumers," Recto said.

The bicam recessed for one day yesterday after reaching a major agreement on Tuesday to set a single VAT rate. But what that rate would be was deferred for their next meetings.

The House panel led by Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus accepted the Senate proposal but asked that "mitigating measures" be adopted to cushion the impact on consumers.

The House originally proposed a 12-percent VAT rate for some goods and services, and a gradual rate increase on others. For power and petroleum, it proposed 4 percent for the first year and 6, 8 and 12 percent for the succeeding three years.

Villar said the bicam members decided to take a day's rest to think about their positions.

"The Senate version is more populist, while the House version is more pro-business so we're trying to come up with a compromise," Villar said.

He said the 11 percent rate floated by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. as a possible compromise was "too simplistic."

"We might not need that simplistic formula for this very complicated topic," Villar said.

"But of course, this is not saying that [compromise] is not possible. Maybe we will end up with that but we should explore other options first," Villar said.

Recto said it is important to "send the proper signals" that there should be burden-sharing between consumers and business without "overburdening the economy with too many taxes."

"Remember, we're asking consumers to pay a VAT now on petroleum and power and we're asking corporate Philippines to pay—if they're profitable—an additional 9.5 percent (in corporate income tax). If they are not profitable, they will pay nothing," Recto said.

Recto said he had a talk with Trade Secretary Juan Santos during the bicam last Tuesday and the secretary was agreeable to his committee's original proposal to increase the corporate tax from 32 to 35 percent and reduce it by 2009 to 30 percent.

But he said Santos did not necessarily agree to the Senate idea that there was no need to raise the VAT rate.

"But I think he realizes that increasing the VAT from 10 to 12 percent is also bad for business," Recto said.

VILLAR

Vets to mark 54th year of Yuldong battle

DEFENSE Secretary Avelino Cruz will be guest of honor at simple rites marking the 54th anniversary of the Battle of Yuldong tomorrow at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

South Korean Ambassador Yu Myung Hwan and Philippine Army commanding general Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga will also attend the early morning ceremony that will bring together veterans of the five Battalion Combat Teams that comprised the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok).

The Battle of Yuldong was part of the largest battle fought by the United Nations Command (UNC) against China and North Korea during the Korean War. The 900 men of Peftok's 10th BCT commanded by Col. Dionisio Ojeda held off fierce night assaults by four communist Chinese divisions, preventing a complete communist encirclement of UNC divisions on the western end of the UNC defense line in North Korea.

At the cost of 50 men, the 10th BCT inflicted thousands of casualties on the attacking Chinese in the outskirts of the village of Yuldong, North Korea. It was the heaviest loss in a single battle among the five Peftok BCTs.

The 10th withdrew in good order while holding off the attacking Chinese. An account of the battle is to be found on the Peftok website at www.geocities.com/peftok

Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro, president of the Peftok Veterans Association Inc., said the commemoration of the Yuldong battle of one of two annual highlights for Korean War veterans, the other being the Korean War Veterans of the Philippines Day celebrated every Sept. 7.

He also said plans were underway for the construction of the first memorial to Filipinos who fought to defend democracy in the Korean War. The Korean War Veterans Memorial is to be built in Marikina, where Peftok BCTs trained prior to deploying to Korea.

He said construction of the memorial would be finished within the year. Less than 3,000 of the 7,000 Philippine Army soldiers who fought in the Korean War remain alive today.

UNDP launches entrepreneurship report today

THE UNITED Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines will host the launching and workshop of the UN report on "Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor" for the East Asia sub-region starting today the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) is the organizing partner of the two-day workshop.

Dr. Hafiz Pasha, the UN assistant secretary general and assistant administrator, and regional director of the bureau for Asia and the Pacific of the UNDP, will represent the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and deliver the keynote address.

He leads other UN officials from UNDP and the UN Industrial Development Organization (Unido) during the event. Sharing their experiences on how the private sector can work with the poor at the bottom of the pyramid are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Finance Corp. (IFC), Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. (ANZ), Energy House, Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecoms and participating countries.

East Asian countries like Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam will be represented during the workshop.

Vice President Noli de Castro will deliver the inaugural address. Jose "Joey " Concepcion III, president and CEO of Republic Flour Mills and recently appointed presidential consultant for entrepreneurship, will deliver a message on behalf of the private sector during the opening ceremonies.

Ramon del Rosario Jr., president of Phinma group, will present the Philippines' position and experience.

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Erap in jail still darling of the masses, says poll

From page A1

and out of court, forced to live in circumstances modest by his standards, and blamed for most of the ills afflicting the country, Joseph Estrada remains the masses' source of trust.

The first-quarter survey of the Social Weather Stations showed the ex-President getting a net trust rating of 9 percent, with 44 percent of the respondents saying they had "much trust" and only 36 percent saying they had "little trust" in him.

The survey was conducted from Feb. 25 to March 10 and covered 1,200 respondents nationwide.

Enduring popularity

The results, which have a margin of error of plus 3 percent, were released just a day after Estrada celebrated his 68th birthday at his vacation house in Tanay, Rizal.

Estrada's enduring popularity further underscores the poor ratings of his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who scored a record low of negative 12 percent in net satisfaction rating in an SWS survey conducted during the same period.

But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita quickly dismissed the yawning gap in the figures by attributing Estrada's superior trust rating to the Filipinos' affinity with the underdog.

Saying he was "just being honest," Ermita observed: "In our Filipino culture, we always take pity on the underdog. If he (Estrada) is still sitting in power, people will not think the same thing about him."

Ermita attributed Ms Arroyo's low rating to the costs of oil: "Any President will have a poor rating in the face of surging oil prices."

Strengths, weaknesses

The SWS survey showed that Estrada's net trust rating was particularly strong in Luzon (14 percent) and Mindanao (11 percent), and dominant in the D (9 percent) and E (20 percent) classes.

Estrada was predictably weak in Metro Manila (5 percent) and the Visayas (negative 3 percent), and among the ABC classes (negative 9 percent).

WILDLY popular still as evidenced by the throng of admirers who camped outside the gates of his luxury estate in Tanay on his 68th birthday on Tuesday. AP

But while the ex-movie idol continues to enjoy the masses' trust, the SWS noted that this was "only nominal, compared to the period 1993 to 1999 when [he] was extremely popular."

During this period, the former mayor of San Juan was elected senator, vice president and president with the highest votes among all the contenders.

The masses not only trust Estrada but also believe that his plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan has been plodding.

Plunder trial plodding

According to the SWS survey, 54 percent said the trial was too slow, 34 percent said the pace was just right, and 10 percent said it was too much in a hurry.

Nearly half, or 48 percent, of the respondents felt that Estrada was getting a fair shake from the government, with the balance of the respondents split almost evenly—27 percent said that he was being treated too harshly, and 24 percent, that the treatment was too lenient.

Public attention on trial

Estrada's popularity can also be seen in the public attention focused on his court adventures.

The majority, or 52 percent, of the respondents were riveted to his trial, making it at par with other closely watched news events, such as the proposals to increase taxes (52 percent).

Filipinos were more interested in Estrada's trial than in the renewed fighting in Sulu (44 percent), the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and Muslim rebels (43 percent), and the court battle of victims of human rights violations during martial law (33 percent).

In terms of attention, Estrada's trial trailed only the death of his friend and losing presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. (79 percent), the East Asia tsunami (67 percent), and the bombings and terrorist acts in the Philippines (62 percent).

Table 1

PUBLIC TRUST IN JOSEPH "ERAP" ESTRADA, BY LOCATION AND CLASS, MARCH 2005

	RP	NCR	BAL LUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
Aware	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Much trust	44	43	48	37	46	37	44	52
Undecided	18	19	16	20	18	17	19	14
Little Trust	36	37	34	40	35	45	35	32
*Net trust **	+9	+5	+14	-3	+11	-9	+9	+20

* % Much trust minus % Little trust, correctly rounded.

Q60. Pag-usapan po natin ang tungkol sa ilang personalidad. SA MGA SUMUSUNOD, MAAARI PO BANG SABIHIN NINYO KUNG ANG PAGTITIWALA NINYO KAY JOSEPH "ERAP" ESTRADA, DATING PANGULO NG PILIPINAS AY.. (Napakalaki, Medyo Malaki, Hindi Tiyak Kung Malaki o Maliit, Medyo Maliit, Napakaliit, o Wala Pa Kayang Narinig o Nabasa Kahit Na Kailan)?

SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS 20 years founded 1985 — 1st Quarter 2005 Social Weather Report, Feb. 25 – Mar. 10, 2005 National Survey

WAITING for a chance to catch a glimpse of her idol and greet him a happy birthday. JOAN BONDOC

Suicide a sacrifice to save family, says Borlongan widow

From page A1

ment of weakness, said the 22-year-old, who flew in from Paris on April 12, a day after her father died by his own hand at 49.

"It took a lot of courage to have done what he did," Kathy said. She said it was not true that depression over the closure of Urban Bank, of which Borlongan was president, and the subsequent court losses led him to kill himself.

"He did it for the family," she said.

Borlongan's widow Dolly said his death was a "sacrifice."

"He took his life because he wanted to protect us from the further pending hell that was again to break loose, as a result of losing his battle in the Supreme Court, as a result of the injustice that continued without fail," Dolly said, reading from a statement after the ninth-day Mass for Borlongan last Tuesday at the Christ the King church in Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Dolly said her husband had told her that if the last case he lodged with the high court would again be dismissed, the battle was over.

"All is lost. They will not stop until they put me in prison to cover up the wrongdoing they did in closing the bank. It will be a free-for-all. They will take away everything," she quoted him as saying.

Addressing her children, Dolly said: "Always remember, Kathy, Jon, Chris and Stephie… Daddy gave up his life so we can have ours. He loved us so much. He sacrificed himself."

In April 2000, Urban Bank was hit by massive deposit withdrawals, forcing it to declare a bank holiday. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ordered its closure in the same month, sparking a number of lawsuits.

Borlongan protested the closure as "arbitrary" and took his case all the way to the Supreme Court.

He also filed cases against several government agencies in an effort to clear his name. But all the cases were dismissed.

The negative publicity "maligned" Borlongan's name and "stripped" him of his honor, Dolly said. "Life was never the same again…. Our world turned upside down."

Last Christmas

It was Christmas when Kathy, a student of applied foreign languages in Paris, last saw her father. She recalled that it was a tense moment.

Since the closure of Urban Bank, the family had been "in pain," and "each member tried to seek shelter in whatever form," Kathy said. She herself "needed to get away."

When she passed the admission test at the Sorbonne University two years ago, she "ran away" to Paris against her father's wishes.

A friend paid for her ticket, and she took a 6 p.m.-3 a.m. job as a waitress and bartender to support herself.

The next schoolyear, she transferred to the Bordeaux University because the living expenses were cheaper there. She worked part-time as a model.

During that time, there was no communication between father and daughter. "No e-mail, no calls, or anything," said Kathy, who is fluent in English, Filipino, French and Japanese.

Yet Kathy, who professes to be as "hardheaded" as her father, said she had no regrets over what she did.

Like her father, who made a decision and stuck to it, she said she "just wanted to grow up."

Did she wish she could have talked to him one last time?

"No," Dolly said, adding that their relationship was not the kind that needed words. "My father knows [how much I love him]," she said.

March 4 e-mail

Dolly said an e-mail sent to her husband on March 4 "aggravated Ted's already broken spirit."

The e-mail read: "Ted, pls stop sending the e-group updates about your personal crap. A majority of us know you're guilty as sin. Don't bother salvaging your honor because you never had any to start with. Just return the billions you stole."

But her husband never stole money from depositors, Dolly said.

In fact, she said, when Urban Bank reopened as Export Bank, the depositors were granted a 3-year repayment scheme that ended in September.

"That only proves that the [claim of billions having been] stolen is not true," she said.

Borlongan made quiet preparations days before he was found dead with a gunshot wound in the head inside his Nissan pick-up at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

"Ted prepared us for his departure," Dolly said. "We underwent a crash course in discipline and order in our home. Ted made sure that everything was in order…"

Before he left their Greenmeadows home on the morning of April 11, Borlongan had prepared the family budget and expenses, organized the kitchen, cleared his things and disposed of the trash.

"He even gave our dog a bath and left instructions with the maid to take care of our dog," Dolly said.

Looming fear

It was when she read the text message from him, telling her he was at the memorial park, that Dolly's worst fear came to roost.

"For the past five years since the bank closed, the fear of Ted taking his own life always loomed above our heads," she said.

The wife in her simply knew: "My intuition was telling me this was goodbye."

The message, sent at 12:24:39 p.m. of April 11, read: "Dolly, I'm at Loyola Marikina. I left my wallet in my bathroom drawer. I love you."

She called her husband's phone, but the call went unanswered. She was then in Divisoria, shopping for fabrics for a bedding business that she wanted to start, and was too far away.

So she called a son, a brother-in-law, a number of friends, even Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando, to tell them to please rush to his side. "But it was too late."

Mayor Fernando found Borlongan's body in the pickup parked some meters away from where his parents are buried.

At home, Dolly and her children found more evidence of a well-planned suicide.

Inside the couple's walk-in closet were the clothes Borlongan had prepared for his wake: barong Tagalog, black pants, white T-shirt, suspenders, black belt, black socks, white handkerchief.

Instead of a wallet in the bathroom drawer, Dolly found "a letter for me with detailed instructions on what to do after his death."

Last acts

A day before he killed himself, Borlongan and his family had lunch at the Brazil, Brazil restaurant.

They attended Mass together at the Christ the King church and then proceeded to the cinema to watch the movie, "Sahara."

Before he left the house on his last day alive, he checked on each of the children, who were still sleeping in their beds.

It was the end of the long goodbye.

"HE gave up his life so we can have ours," Dolly Borlongan reminds her children Kathy, Jonathan, Christopher during her remarks after the ninth day Mass novena at Christ the King Church in Greenmeadows. Hidden beside Dolly is daughter Stephanie. REM ZAMORA

No chronic health problems reported for new Pope

VATICAN CITY—The new Pope Benedict XVI has no apparent history of chronic health problems, but the 78-year-old German has been hospitalized at least twice since the early 1990s, according to records and reports.

In September 1991, he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage that temporarily affected his left field of vision, according to veteran Vatican journalist John Allen in his 2000 book "Cardinal Ratzinger."

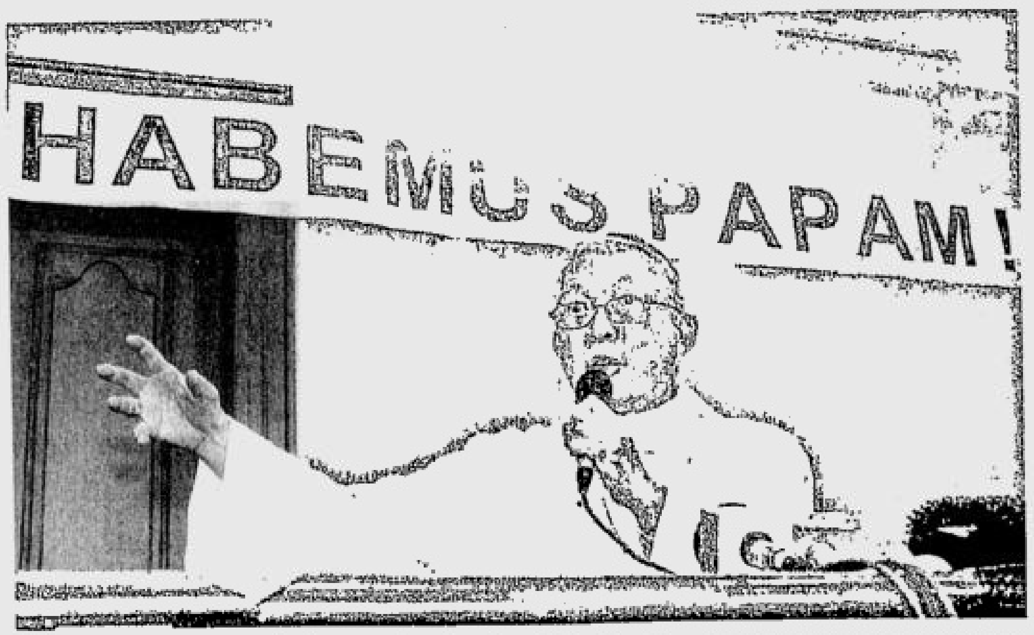
There is no indication, however, that it left any lingering health difficulties.

In August 1992, he cut his head after slipping in the bathroom during a vacation in the Italian Alps, the Italian news agency ANSA reported at the time.

Thomas Frauenlob, director of St. Michael's seminary in Traunstein where the Pope studied as a youth and still visits annually, said he had never heard of any major ailments.

"He seems healthy," said Frauenlob, who last saw him over the New Year's holiday. "He comes and eats and drinks whatever he wants."

But the Rev. Thomas Reese, an expert on Vatican affairs, believed the new Pontiff's health was "not that good" during the past year. He gave no specifics. *AP*



REJOICING Filipino Catholics over the election of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger are led by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales who holds a news conference on Wednesday to welcome the historic event. The Philippines is Asia's largest Catholic nation. AP

Ratzinger brother 'shocked' by election

BERLIN—The elder brother of Germany's Joseph Ratzinger said Wednesday he was "shocked" to hear the aging cardinal had been elected Pope Benedict XVI, fearing the gruelling schedule would be too much for his frail health.

"I am very concerned. I would have thought his advanced age and his health, which is not very stable, would have been reason enough for the cardinals to pick someone else," said Georg Ratzinger, 81, in an interview on German public television on the choice of his 78-year-old brother.

"But the cardinals made their decision and that is the will of God," said Ratzinger, himself a prelate.

Georg Ratzinger, who said earlier this month that he did not believe his brother had a chance at being elected pope because of his age and his German nationality, said he was "shocked" by the election.

"I got used to the idea during the night but it is still overwhelming," he added.

Although the white-haired cardinal was considered a front-runner to succeed John Paul II, Ratzinger's shaky health history—including a stroke in the 1980s—was thought to be a mark against him.

Joseph Ratzinger frequently visited his brother in the southern German town of Regensburg, even after he became a cardinal in 1977, and owns a home in the suburb of Pentling.

But Georg Ratzinger said he had yet to speak with his brother following his election and expected to see him less often as he takes on the job as the globetrotting leader of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics. *AFP*

ERMITA: Confirmation

GONZALEZ: Subject to revisions

GMA signed . . .

From page A1

view yesterday, Gonzalez clarified that what the President gave was a "preliminary approval" of a draft EO.

Preliminary approval

"There is a preliminary approval but subject to revisions. There is nothing final," he said, adding that he had not even seen the draft EO.

The report of the EO's signing came just a week after a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey revealed that six out of every 10 Filipinos approved of the proposed national identification system because it would combat terrorism.

Ms Arroyo has said the survey emboldened her to push through with the controversial national ID system, which was first proposed by President Ramos in the 1990s.

The Ramos government dropped the idea after the Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional and an invasion of the individual's right to privacy.

Despite the legal obstacles, Malacañang has expressed confidence that an EO would be enough to put the program into motion, saying officials had put the issue before a number of legislators and legal experts.

Funding problem

Aside from legal matters, another key issue standing in the way of the implementation of a national ID program is funding, considering the government's fiscal situation.

In February, the President ordered Socio-economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to draft the EO for the ID system which would combine the information data base of the Social Security System and Government Service and Insurance System with data compiled from the National Statistics Office.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that more than the information contained in the ID cards, the government wanted each Filipino to have a single reference number for life that would ease the identification process.

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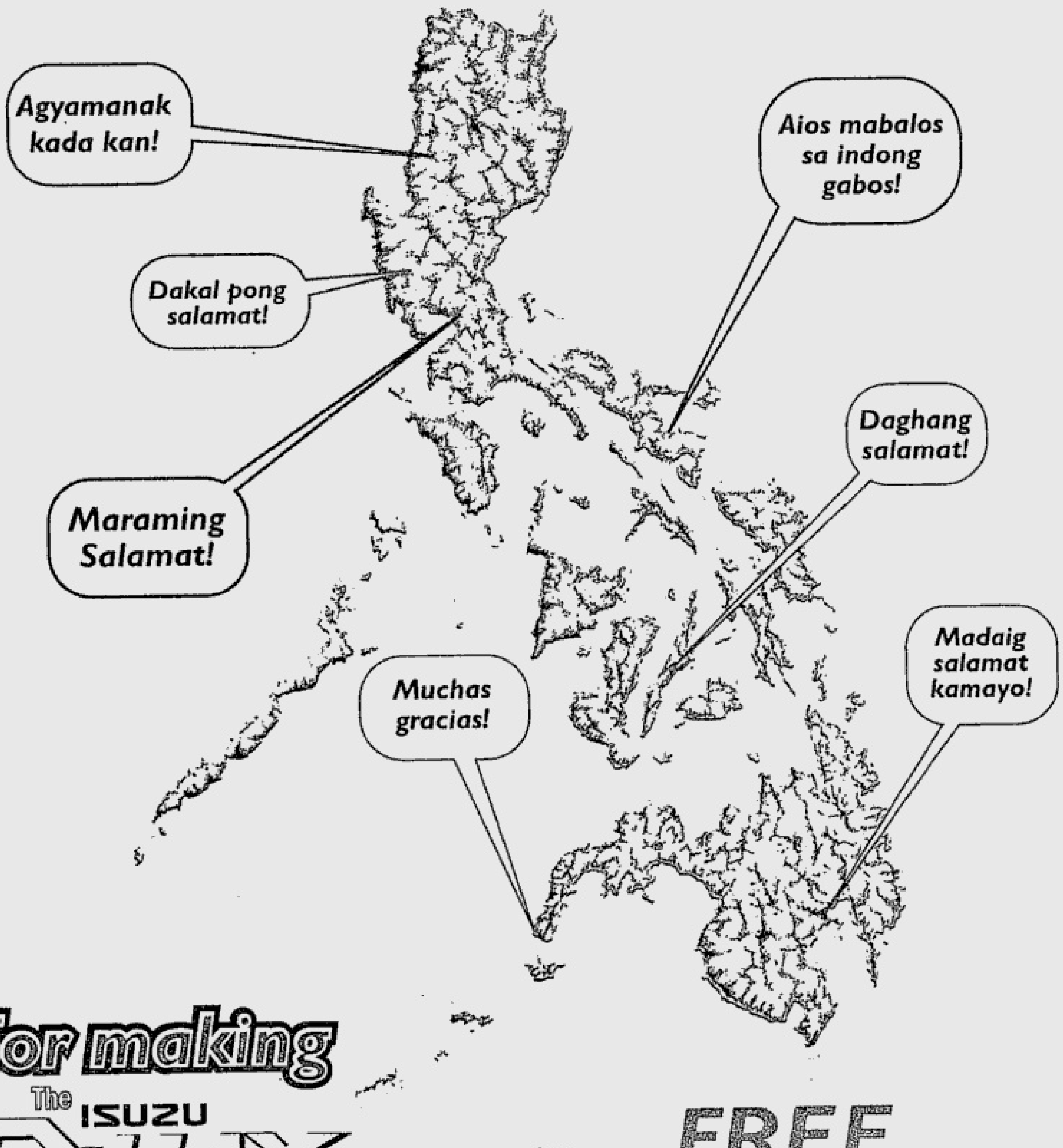

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

World, religious leaders hail new Pope

PRESIDENTS, religious leaders and many of the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics welcomed Joseph Ratzinger's election as Pope Benedict XVI.

The conservative German cardinal, chosen by a panel of his peers on Tuesday, was generally seen as the voice of continuity after he served as one of Pope John Paul II's closest aides and the guardian of Church doctrine for nearly a quarter of a century.

"He is a man of great wisdom and knowledge," US President George W. Bush said shortly after the news was announced Tuesday, recalling Ratzinger's sermon at John Paul II's funeral.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he would bring a wealth of experience to his papacy.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said Ratzinger would be "a worthy successor" to the Polish-born John Paul II, who died April 2. "This is a great honor for Germany," Schroeder said.

The election of the first German Pope in 1,000 years "fills us in Germany with special joy and also with a little pride," President Horst Koehler said.

From Europe to Latin America, the heartland of Roman Catholicism, to the United States, Asia, Africa and Australia, tributes poured in.

"He's a person who will reach out, as did his great predecessor, not only to Christians around the world, in all parts of the world, but also to people of other faiths," said Australian Prime Minister John Howard, on a visit to Tokyo.

In Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin Wednesday congratulated Pope Benedict XVI on his election, the Kremlin press service said.

"Russia intends to continue a constructive political dialogue and cooperation with the Holy See in the interest of resolving global problems, strengthening the values of the good, of justice and humanity," Putin's statement said.

Putin said that the Pontiff's term "begins at an important time in global development."

Earlier Wednesday, Russia's Orthodox Church leader Alexy II also congratulated Pope Benedict XVI on his election and called for dialogue and closer cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church.

He called for the eastern and western Churches, which have suffered strained relations in recent years, to "join forces in the work of spreading Christian values to modern man."

Jewish and Muslim leaders expected Ratzinger, 78, to follow John Paul's lead in trying to heal divisions between faiths.

In Jerusalem, Israelis saluted Wednesday the election of Pope Benedict XVI, hailing him as a friend of the Jewish people and urging him to continue fighting anti-Semitism.

"He is well known as a friend of the Jewish people. I hope and I pray that he will follow the path of Pope John Paul II," said the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv Israel Lau.

Palestinians expressed hope that the new Pontiff would continue pushing for the rights of Palestinians and, like John Paul II, campaign against Israel's West Bank barrier which is cutting the Holy City of Jerusalem off from Jesus Christ's traditional birthplace in nearby Bethlehem.

In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, a senior figure in the 40-million-member Islamic group Nadhlatul Ulama voiced hope that Ratzinger's close ties to the late Pope would mean greater harmony for the world's religions.

"He has been dealing with theological issues for quite a long time and he is very familiar with the visions brought by Pope John Paul II," said Masduki Baidlowi.

China congratulated newly appointed Pope Benedict XVI, and said it hoped that Beijing's strained relations with the Roman Catholic Church could improve during his tenure.

"We hope under the leadership of the new Pope, the Vatican side can create favorable conditions for improving the relationship between China and the Vatican," foreign ministry spokesperson Qin Gang said.

Taiwan expressed confidence Wednesday that the new Pope will not "sacrifice" the Vatican's principles to sever ties with Taiwan at the urging of Beijing. *Reuters, AFP, AP*

What's in a name? New pope takes inspiration from an antiwar pontiff

VATICAN CITY—The last pope named Benedict guided the church during the dark years of World War I, espousing a policy of strict neutrality and pushing for peace through negotiations. To honor him, Joseph Ratzinger chose the same name.

Ratzinger told cardinals he wanted to pay homage to Benedict XV, known for tireless efforts to help refugees and reunite a world divided by the Great War, an archbishop said.

The new Pontiff, Benedict XVI, felt his namesake "had done much for reconciliation among peoples," Berlin Cardinal Georg Maximilian Sterzinsky told reporters Tuesday after attending the conclave. Ratzinger also was close to the late John Paul II—another peace-loving pontiff. John Paul openly opposed the US-led war in Iraq.

Choosing a new name is a pontiff's first significant act in office, and it provides clues about the kind of leader he aspires to be.

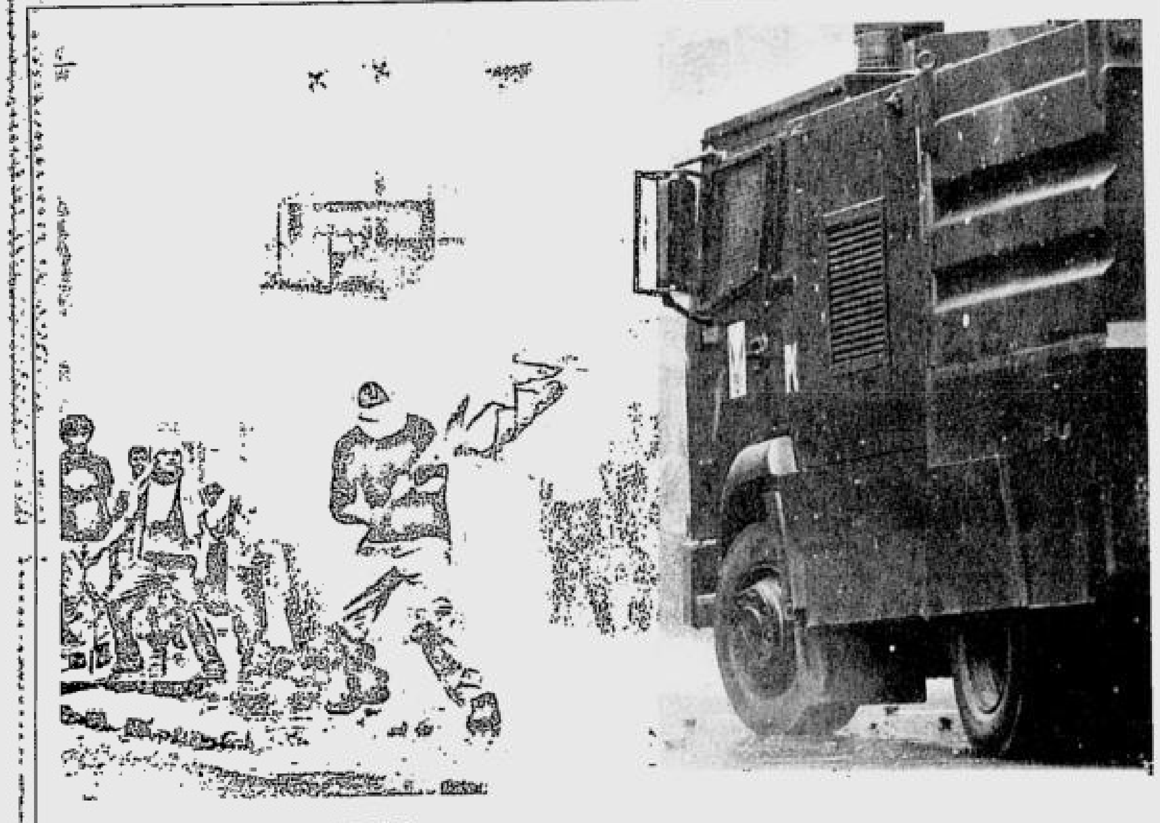
Benedict XV, Giacomo Della Chiesa, pontiff from 1914 to 1922, had the difficult task of providing leadership for Roman Catholic countries pitted against each other during World War I, each claiming a just fight and praying for victory.

The previous Benedict was seen as something of a bridge-builder between Western and Eastern Churches, a key challenge facing the new, 21st-century Benedict.

Ratzinger's namesake was described as kindly and approachable, and something of a peacemaker.

His neutrality, and repeated protests against weapons like poison gas, angered both sides. He worked to help the war's innocent victims and came up with a seven-point peace plan. It failed, but some of his proposals were included in Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, the US president's wartime call for peace in January 1918. *AP, AFP*

POPE Benedict XV is seen in the undated photo. He served as head of the Catholic Church from 1914 to 1922. AP



DISPERSAL OPERATION

Demonstrators face a water cannon vehicle during a protest against Ecuadorean President Lucio Gutierrez who is under an intense pressure to step down, as protests demanding his resignation moved from Quito to coastal cities. AFP

China-Japan diplomatic row overshadows Asia-Africa summit

JAKARTA—Asian foreign ministers expressed concern on Wednesday at a row between China and Japan, and urged the two economic powerhouses to reduce tensions that they said were not good for the region.

The dispute has overshadowed a landmark meeting of Asian and African leaders in Indonesia, with all eyes on whether Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Chinese President Hu Jintao will hold talks on the sidelines of the event this week.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, speaking after foreign ministers opened talks on strengthening Asia-Africa ties, said the row was being scrutinized across a region where many countries count Japan and China as key trading partners.

"Any raising of tensions in our area is a matter of concern, especially when it involves China and Japan, so we hope the dialogue will continue and they will find a very satisfactory resolution," Syed Hamid said.

"It will not destabilize (Asia), but it will be a matter of serious concern."

Around 100 countries are attending a summit in Jakarta this week for the 50th anniversary of the 1955 Asia-Africa Conference in the Indonesian city of Bandung that marked the first move by the Third World to assert itself in world affairs.

Heads of state are scheduled to meet on Friday and Saturday in Jakarta. On Sunday, they will make a nostalgic trip to Bandung, 140 km southeast of the capital.

Japanese officials have said Koizumi and Hu might hold separate talks in Indonesia, but no meeting has been confirmed.

Sino-Japanese ties are at their worst in three decades, putting at risk a partnership worth $178 billion in annual trade.

China has seen three weekends of violent protests against Japan. Many are angry about a revised Japanese school textbook that they say whitewashes Japan's wartime history, and they also oppose its bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

"I don't think it's good for Asia or for the world for relations between these two important countries to become too bad," Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo said.

"I think they had a good meeting recently," Yeo said, referring to crisis talks between their foreign ministers in Beijing this week.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo expressed optimism the two Asian giants would patch up relations.

"I think they will resolve the issue," Romulo said.

While Asian countries have tried not to take sides in the dispute, some have sought to remind Japan about its wartime past. Most are also loathe to offend China.

But East Timor Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta said China was putting itself in an awkward position by being so strident. *Reuters*

Argentine gets 640-year jail term for throwing prisoners off planes

MADRID—A Spanish court has convicted a former Argentine naval officer of crimes against humanity for throwing 30 naked, drugged prisoners from planes during his country's "dirty war" more than two decades ago and sentenced him to 640 years in prison.

Argentines who lost friends and family in the campaign to snuff out dissent—some wearing stickers bearing the photos of victims—hugged and cried with joy and relief after the landmark 200-page ruling was read out Tuesday against 58-year-old Adolfo Scilingo.

The verdict closes Spain's first trial under a law that says crimes against humanity can be tried in Spain even if they are alleged to have been committed elsewhere—part of a growing body of international legislation that also has been applied for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

"With Scilingo's conviction, we've sent a worldwide message to all dictatorships and people who have committed genocide telling them that they are not safe wherever they are," said Juan Diego Botto, a Spanish-Argentine actor whose father was killed in one such "death flight," though not one involving Scilingo.

The three-judge panel said in its ruling that Scilingo was guilty of taking active part in the Argentine junta's drive to crush leftist dissent during the 1976-83 military dictatorship, noting that Scilingo was on two of the execution flights.

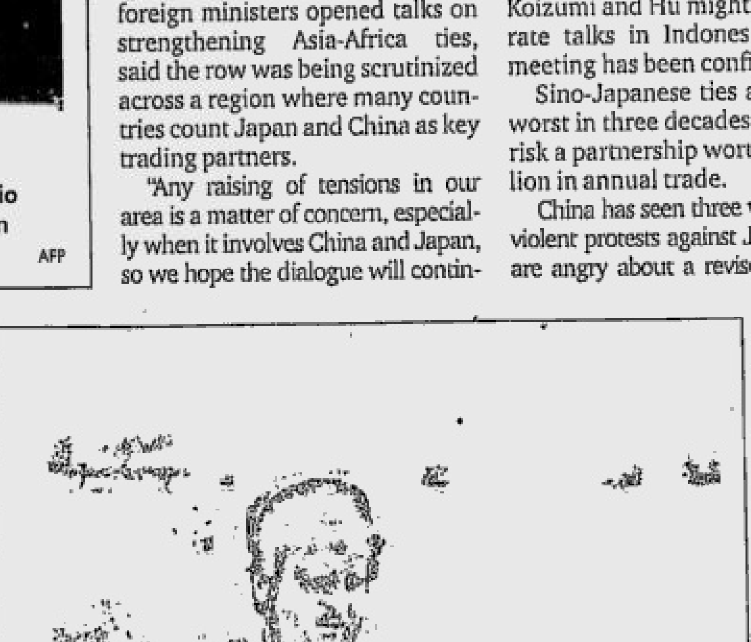
Scilingo did not react to the verdict, but took notes as the sentence was read. His lawyer said he would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Scilingo had come to Spain voluntarily in 1997 to testify before a judge probing atrocities allegedly committed by military regimes in Argentina and Chile. He admitted to participating in two "death flights" in which a total of 30 people were thrown to their deaths into the Atlantic. He said he also knew of other atrocities when he was based at the Buenos Aires Navy School of Mechanics, one of the regime's most notorious torture centers.

National Court Judge Baltasar Garzon, who was investigating the alleged crimes, subsequently jailed and indicted him.

During the trial, which included testimony from torture survivors, Scilingo insisted he fabricated the taped testimony to trigger an investigation into the dirty war. His court-appointed lawyer, Fernando Martinez Morata, said Scilingo was a scapegoat for broader crimes in Argentina.

Scilingo had been accused of genocide, torture and terrorism. But on Tuesday, the verdict said his offenses were better described as "crimes against humanity," and sentenced him to 21 years in prison for each of the 30 people thrown from planes. He also received five years for torture and five for illegal detention. *AP*



ANTI-NARCO DRIVE

An Afghan policeman destroys poppy crops during an operation in Sanzeri village in the southern Kandahar province, Afghanistan, April 19. Afghan authorities have destroyed about 20 hectares of illegal poppy crops in Sanzeri. REUTERS

Lovers' quarrel sparked deadly Paris hotel fire

PARIS—A young woman has admitted accidentally causing last week's deadly fire in a Paris hotel after throwing clothes over candles in an argument with her boyfriend, officials said on Tuesday.

The death toll in Friday's fire, one of the deadliest in the French capital for years, rose to at least 23 when another victim died from injuries sustained in the blaze that engulfed the six-story Paris-Opera hotel, a hospital official said.

The young woman—the girlfriend of one of the hotel's night watchmen—admitted to accidentally starting the fire by throwing clothes over candles in the hotel breakfast room after a row with her boyfriend, the Paris prosecutor's office said.

"Following a violent argument that she put down to the intoxicated state of her companion, she left the hotel, throwing piles of clothes on the floor in anger, without paying attention to the candles," the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

The boyfriend is in a coma after being caught in the fire.

Eleven of those killed in the fire were children. About 50 people were injured, including US, Portuguese, Senegalese, Ivorian, Tunisian and Ukrainian nationals.

The public prosecutor's department put the death toll at 24, including a baby who was stillborn after the fire.

Some victims attempted to save themselves by jumping from windows and others tried to save their children by throwing them from upper floors after the fire broke out. *Reuters*

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Iraqi lawmakers protest humiliation of legislator at American checkpoint

BAGHDAD—Iraqi lawmakers adjourned in protest Tuesday and demanded an apology after a Shiite legislator linked to a radical anti-American cleric tearfully said he was handcuffed and humiliated at a US checkpoint.

It was the third day running that Iraq's interim parliament was sidetracked from its job of setting up a government and writing a constitution.

Beyond the sand bags and blast walls of the US-protected Green Zone, where the National Assembly meets, at least a dozen Iraqis were killed and more than 60 wounded in a series of attacks, including two that targeted the country's new army and its recruits.

Al-Qaida in Iraq, the nation's most feared terrorist group, claimed responsibility for the worst attack, a suicide bombing in the Azamiyah section of the capital near an army recruitment center that police said killed at least six Iraqis, including two soldiers, and wounded 44. The claim appeared on a website widely used by militants.

A car bomb in western Baghdad targeting a US foot patrol wounded seven Iraqis, police and hospital officials said. The American military had no immediate information on the incident.

Laith Abdullah, the husband of a woman injured in the attack, angrily criticized the legislature for worrying more about its rights than the violence in Baghdad.

"The government should be concerned about all the people getting hurt," said Abdullah.

Tuesday's attacks followed a successful Iraqi security operation at the tip of a militant stronghold south of Baghdad known as the "Triangle of Death," during which police and special forces searched a town where Sunni insurgents were believed to be taking Shiites hostage.

No hostages were found, but security forces said they seized large quantities of weapons and detained 10 suspects. The US military, which only provided backup, praised the operation in Madain as a sign of the growing independence of Iraqi forces.

One of the main goals of the US-led coalition in the 2-year-old war is to train Iraqi security forces to replace American soldiers, and insurgents often target centers where these forces are recruited and instructed.

As Iraqi leaders struggled to form Cabinet nearly three months after national elections, representative Fattah al-Sheik stood before the assembly and cried as he described being stopped at a checkpoint on the way to work Tuesday morning. He claimed an American soldier kicked his car, mocked the legislature, handcuffed him and held him by the neck.

"What happened to me represents an insult to the whole National Assembly that was elected by the Iraqi people. This shows that the democracy we are enjoying is fake," al-Sheik said. "Through such incidents, the US Army tries to show that it is the real controlling power in the country, not the new Iraqi government."

Al-Sheik's small party has been linked to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who led uprisings against the US-led coalition in 2004. On his way home after the session, unidentified gunmen fired on his convoy, but he escaped unharmed, police and his party said. *AP*

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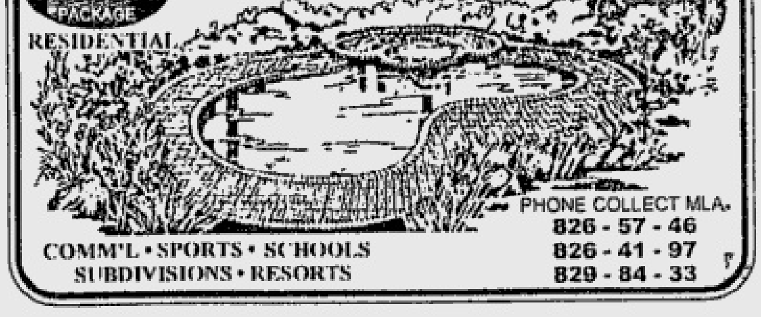
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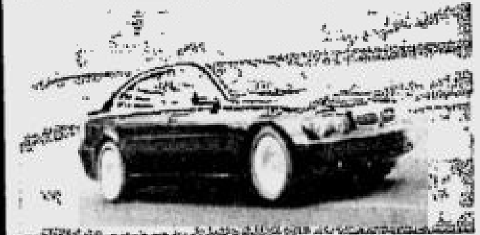
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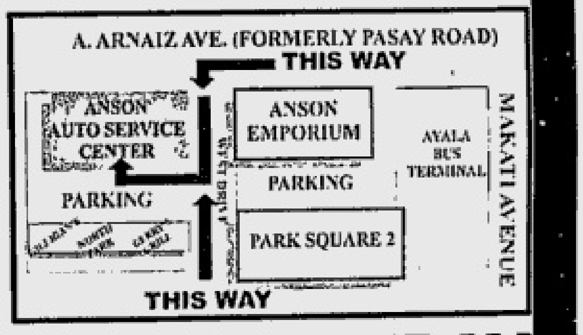

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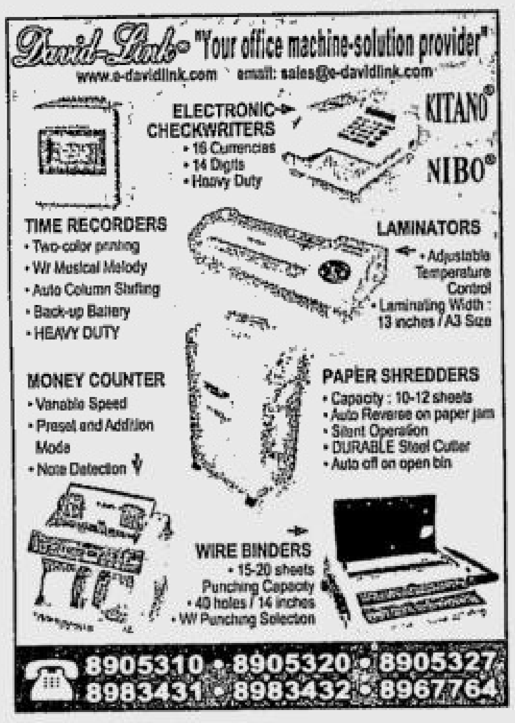
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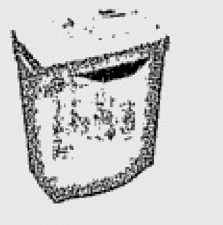
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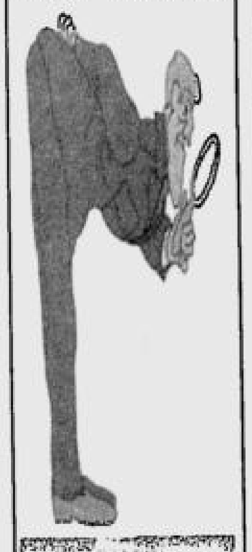
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March 29, 2005

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01-05

TO : ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS, PRESIDENTS OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, CHIEFS OF BUREAUS AND OFFICES, MANAGING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, ACCOUNTING, FINANCE, COLLECTING AND/OR DISBURSING OFFICERS THEREOF, AUDITORS, METRO MANILA/ PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS AND TREASURERS, ALL GSIS MEMBERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : SECONDARY EVIDENCES OF GSIS LOAN REPAYMENTS

In response to the mounting clamor from members for GSIS to update their loan records on the basis of documents other than the Agency Remittance Lists, the GSIS Board of Trustees has approved under its Resolution No. 202 dated 15 September 2004 the acceptance of secondary evidences of payments, subject to the following guidelines:

1. The acceptable secondary evidences of payments shall be any of the following:
   - Office Payroll
   - Salary Payslip
   - Agency Salary Index Card
2. Acceptance of secondary evidence shall only apply to monthly loan repayments that were due and payable prior to July 1997. Monthly loan repayments from July 1997 onwards shall be recorded on the basis of Agency Remittance Lists.
3. Submitted secondary evidence of loan repayments shall be certified by the duly authorized Agency Finance or Accounting Officer whose specimen signatures are current and on file with the GSIS Home Office, District Offices, Field Offices or Satellite Offices.
4. Secondary evidences need not be accompanied by Official Receipts showing remittance of the loan repayments subject of the documents presented.

All concerned are hereby encouraged to submit to their servicing GSIS Office the aforementioned acceptable secondary evidences in order to facilitate reconciliation and updating of individual members' loan accounts.

Please be guided accordingly.

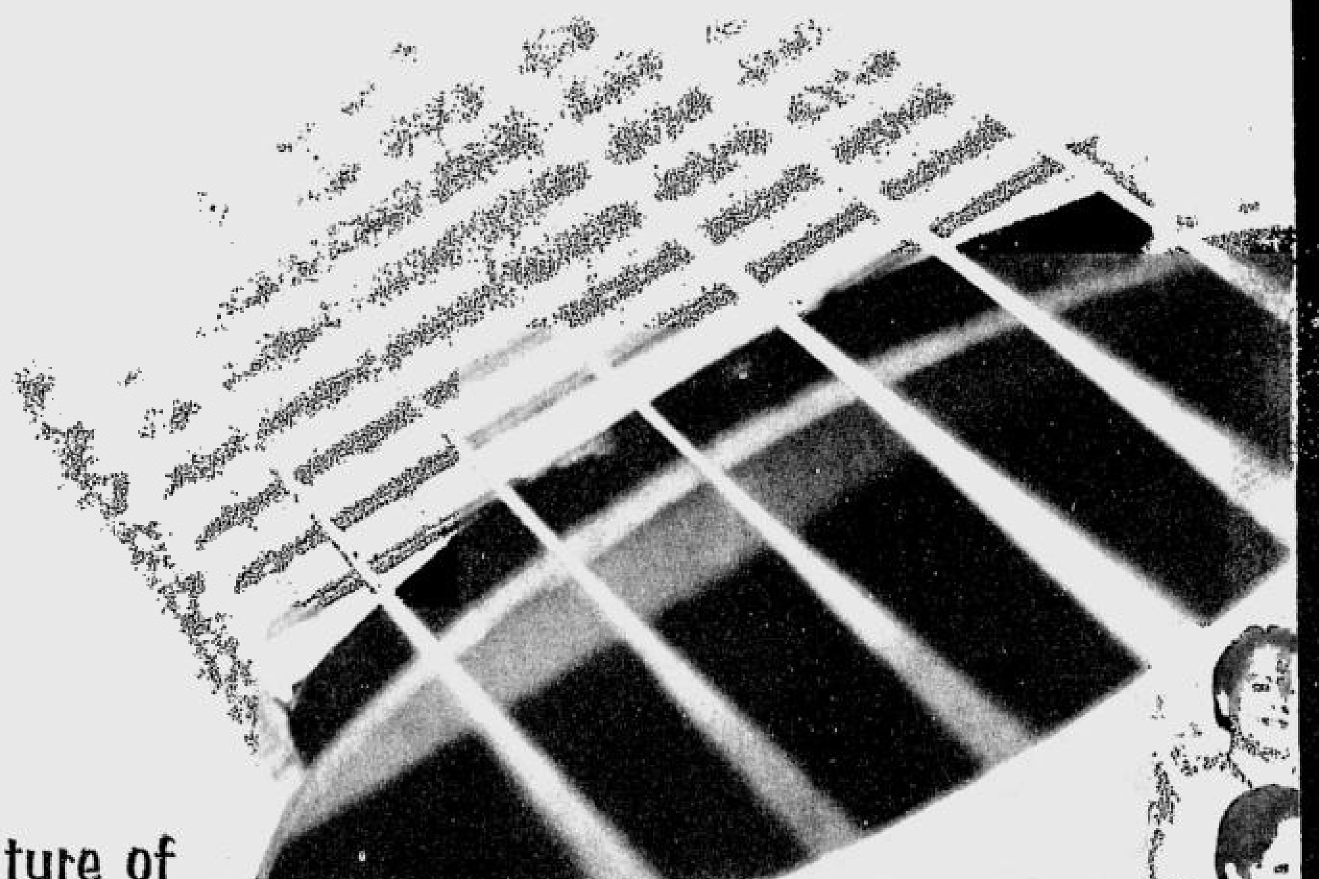
(Sgd) **WINSTON F. GARCIA**
President & General Manager

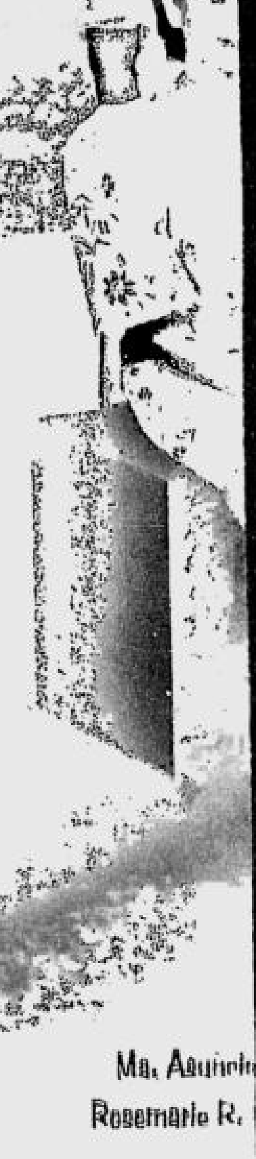
PAID ADV'T

Prudentialakbay 2005 Cebu

Isang Pasa

April 20-23, 2





Ma. Asun

Rosemarie R.

Message

Every year, the Prudentialife Sales Olympics Champions gather together during Prudentialakbay, a festival of fun, entertainment and recognition. This year, Prudentialakbay 2005 goes to the Queen City of the South, Cebu.

Pasasalamat at Parangal

Prudentialakbay Cebu 2005 is a great opportunity for the Prudentialife Kapamilya to thank the Lord, its planholders, sales associates, employees and the public for a bountiful harvest in 2004. Over 1,000 Sales Olympics Champions and delegates will offer a thanksgiving mass at the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño for the trust and support of the Filipino family that has brought Prudentialife to the top. *Isang Malaking Thank You Po!*

Tiwala

Trust is never bought, it is earned. For almost 27 years now, Prudentialife has worked its way into the hearts of many Filipinos and has established a relationship centered on trust and stability. Trust is the main reason why Prudentialife's "Madonna and Child" has become a national icon of service, reflecting our commitment to secure the good life for every Filipino family.

Tagumpay

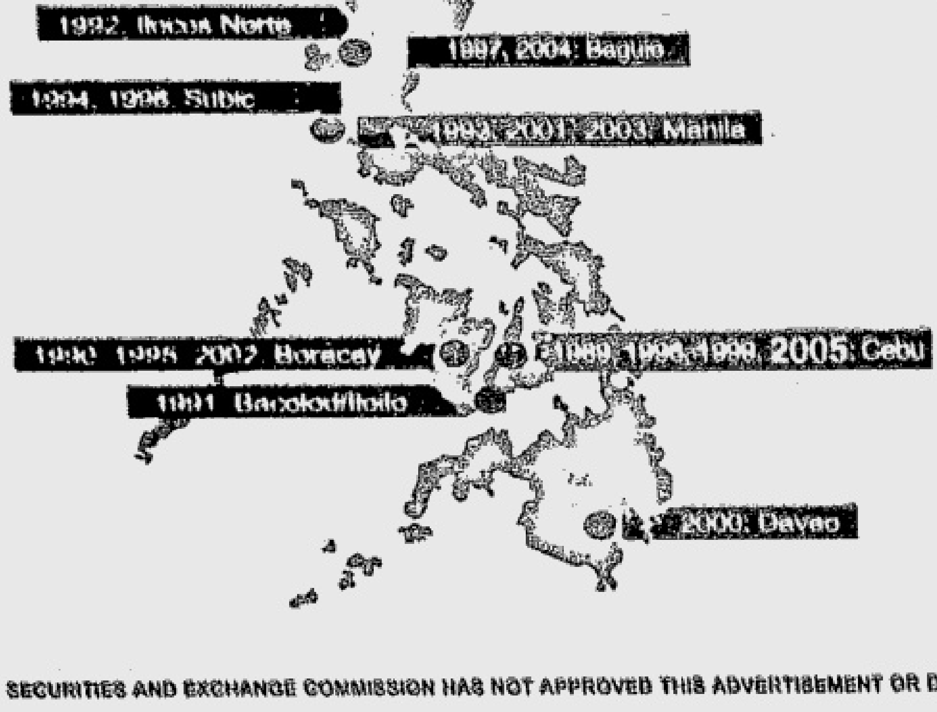
This year's Prudentialakbay is not only a celebration of achievement and success but a victory party as well. To the officers, sales associates, employees and planholders of Prudentialife, *saludo po kami sa inyo!*

Once again, maraming salamat sa tiwala ninyo sa Prudentialife. Together, we will continue to make Prudentialife the No. 1 Filipino Pre-need company.

Mabuhay!

Jose Alberto T. Alba
President
Prudentialife Plans, Inc.

Follow the Prudentialakbay Trail through the Years!



Culture of Excellence

Magellan's Cross stands as a silent reminder of the cradle of Christianity in the Orient. On April 14, 1521, Rajah Humabon was baptized and given the Christian name Carlos after the first mass in Cebu. About 800 Visayans were also baptized. Against this historical backdrop, Prudentialife recognizes the pioneering spirit that drives our Sales Olympics Champions and delegates to a culture of excellence which led Prudentialife to the top of the Pre-Need Industry. Today we celebrate with a Thanksgiving Mass.

Kapamilya Spirit

On April 27, 1521, Ferdinand Magellan together with 60 soldiers and several native allies from Cebu sailed to Mactan. Lapu-Lapu's forces engaged the Europeans in battle where Magellan was defeated.

It is with faith and courage that Prudentialife faces the best and worst of times. The challenge of bringing the best products and services is an opportunity for Prudentialifers to enrich lives, keeping alive the Kapamilya spirit in everyone.

Work and Prayer

Sinulog, a dance of prayer to the beat of drums and shouts of "Pit Señor! Viva Sto. Niño!", honors Cebu's tiny patron, the Holy Child brought ashore with the natural rhythm of sea waves.

Just as the Blessed Child came and brought the light of faith to our land, we always believe that victory and continued success will come to us through work and prayer.

Schedule of Act

April 20 - Pagsalubong at
- Parade of Colors
- Recognition of quali

April 21 - Pasasalamat at
- Thanksgiving mass
- City tour of the Basi
- Gabi ng Parangal to
  President's Achieve

April 22 - Tagumpay at P
- Prudentialife Golf A
- Mactan City tour wit
- Victory party to cele
- Concert top-billed by

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asalamat sa Tiwala at Tagumpay

NATIONAL SALES OLYMPICS CHAMPIONS 2005

005

TOP 5 AREA MANAGERS

Adelma T. Pasion

Ma. Jennifer M. Napilot ● Gloria S. Acasio ● Lourdes A. Sagsagat

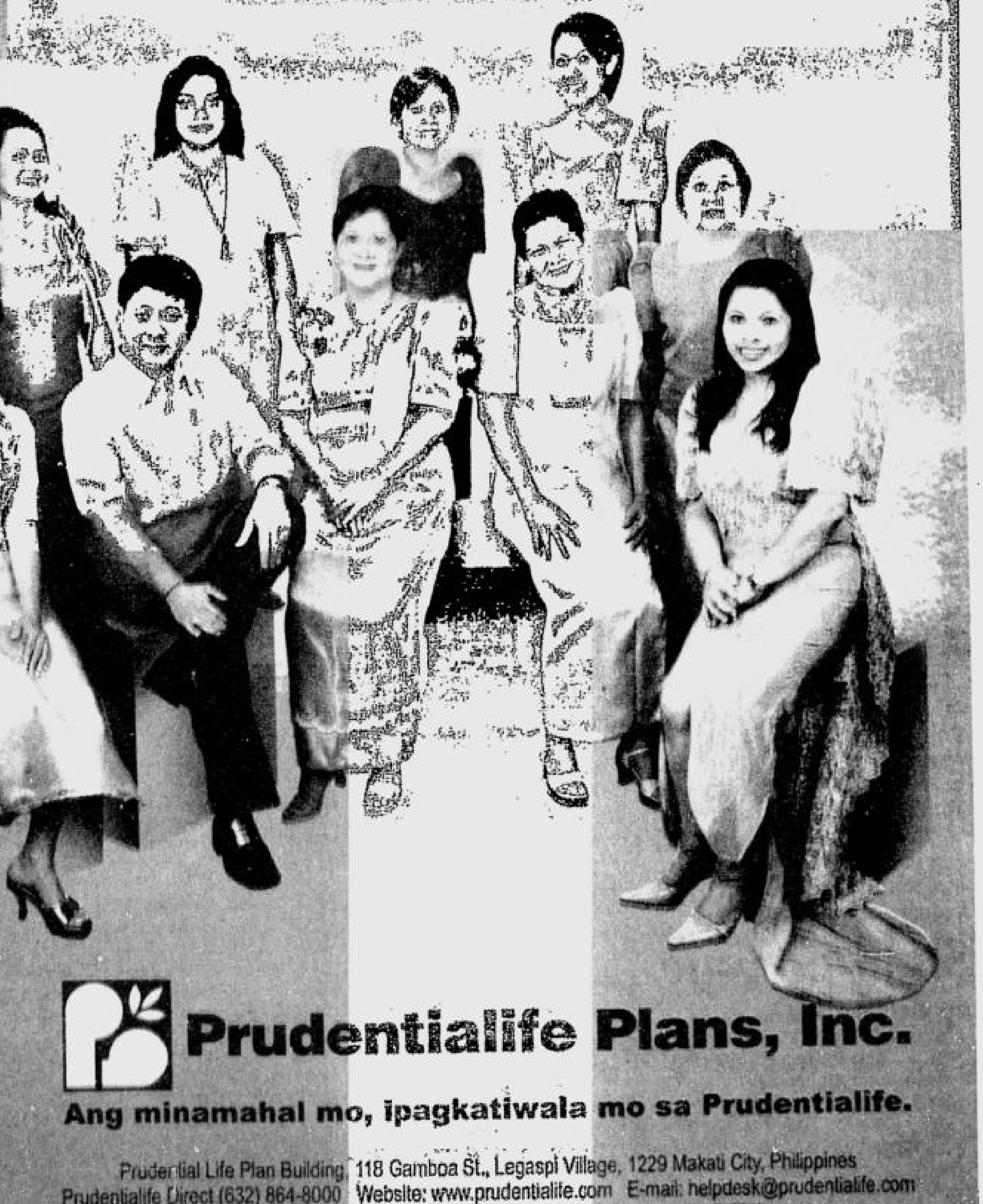
Porfirio V. Cabasisi

TOP 10 AGENCY MANAGERS

Ma. Katherina L. Nubla ● Rafael B. Napilot ● Teddy Ramon C. Lara ● Romeo M. Rodelas

Amador N. Dona ● Magdalena C. Avelino ● Elcia D. Dondoyano ● Jesus P. Sagsagat

Consolacion M. Barea ● Thelma R. Torres



TOP 10 SALES ASSOCIATES

a F. Candelaria ● Patrick L. Tan ● Nenita V. Rodelas ● Teresita C. Pineda

DelGuzman ● Marilyn B. Buñag ● Joycelyn C. Hammerling ● Rosa N. Coco

Ritchel D. Dondoyano ● Rosita T. Lo

vities

Kapatiran

and exchange of gifts among delegates

Parangal

the historic Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño

Museum, Magellan's Cross and other scenic spots

ecognize the 25 Olympians, Consistency Awardees,

Club and Ambassador's Court

igsasaya

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Maribago Beach tour and island hopping

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OPINION

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Benedict XVI

IT SEEMS strange to many that the election has sparked debate. Not since the election of John XXIII—who was clearly (and in hindsight, surprisingly) indicated by his predecessor, Pius XII, as a worthy successor—has a papal election been so influenced by the papacy that came before it. And not since the election of Paul VI has a cardinal widely viewed as a strong candidate emerged as pope.

EDITORIAL

The Roman Catholic Church must wait a few more years for a generational shift in its leadership. The new Pope, Benedict XVI, belongs to the same generation as John Paul II's. This means that a fundamental struggle for the soul of Catholicism—between members of the Vatican II generation, those who view its legacy as both innovation and change, and those, like Benedict XVI, who are wary of Vatican II and see it as modernization gone far at the expense of orthodoxy—will continue, and more bitterly, at that.

The struggle will not just be spiritual, or even theological. It will also be a personal one. Critics of the late John Paul II viewed him as too conservative and faulted him for "centralizing" the Vatican's decision-making. It is significant that those critics called Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, now Benedict XVI, "God's rottweiler," or attack dog. As the guardian of orthodoxy, or traditional interpretations of belief, the cardinal was viewed as out of touch and dictatorial. But this is the same cardinal his fellows, in one of the fastest papal elections of modern times, have voted as the best qualified to lead the Catholic Church in these times.

While Benedict XVI is viewed as personally humble, even charming, and undeniably intellectually gifted—even his enemies say that in his own way, the new Pope is indeed a holy man—his manner of ruling seems out of step with what liberal Catholics want.

What they want is a less centralized Church, a more inclusive and forgiving Church; a faith less hierarchical and more democratic. In his homily during the special Mass celebrated before the conclave to elect a new pope, Cardinal Ratzinger firmly rejected the idea of such a Church. He said, "The small boat of thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves—thrown from one extreme to the other: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism, and so forth." This statement on faith and morality from the new Pope's last sermon as a cardinal may be revealing of the kind of papacy the Church will have under Benedict XVI.

Anyone can get the drift, so to speak, of the new Pope's thoughts, but what are the "-isms" he so forcefully condemns? We may be clear about what "Marxism" is, but what exactly does he mean when he talks of "libertinism" or "collectivism"? The opposition to these ideas in the Church he leads—and the ideas he actually opposes—it seems, will be the focus of this papacy.

In the Western world, in the lands where churches are empty, the election of Benedict XVI has been viewed with alarm. But in many other countries and places where the seminaries are full, and the people actually attend Mass, the election was greeted with relief and even joy.

Those who approve of the new Pope seek certainty, authority and a kind of fearlessness and sureness, often lacking, it is felt, in the modern world and its institutions.

The first great test for the new Pope will be his inaugural Mass, and the homily he will deliver. And great attention will be given to his new—or they could be "renewed"—appointments to the Vatican government. Then he will travel to his homeland, to preside over World Youth Day, an innovation of his predecessor.

Whatever the future brings, few will forget the sense of loss (the world felt over the death of John Paul II) that the election of the first German pope in nearly a thousand years is expected to alleviate.

Signs of hope

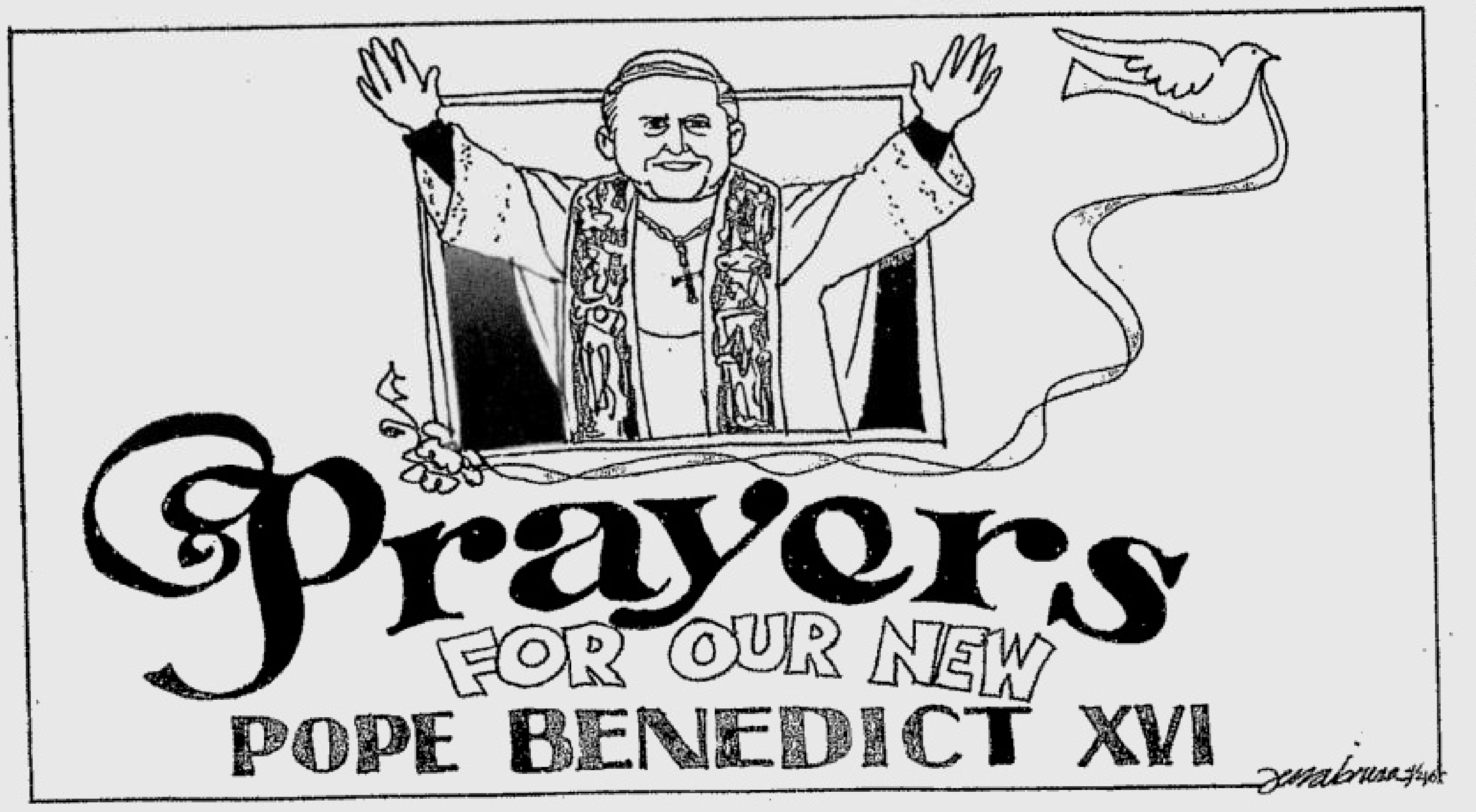
THE BOMBINGS, the shootings and kidnappings go on daily in Iraq. But two years after US troops pulled down the statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, there are signs of hope that Iraq is finally turning the corner.

FOREIGN COMMENT

Iraqi security forces appear to be more capable and confident, and their numbers keep growing. American soldiers are less visible on the streets, and Iraqi forces more so.

More important than these military successes is the psychological transformation in Iraq after last January's elections. Millions of Iraqis turned out to cast their ballots in defiance of insurgents. In doing so, they also helped neutralize the issue of Iraq for Tony Blair in his own election campaign.

Daily Telegraph (London)



Inflicted pain as policy

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

IS Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña someone who, as writer Nicolas Chamfort said, "would burn your house down to cook himself a couple of eggs"? Right now, he seems to be doing just that.

Without a by-your-leave, Osmeña barricaded the P7.6-billion South Coastal Road. This six-lane, 12-kilometer national government highway funnels traffic to points south, then on to Negros, Bohol and other provinces.

The city council, traffic agency, business firms, government offices didn't get the written notice required by the Local Government Code, which also prohibits indefinite closure. Neither were alternatives offered to commuters, jeepney drivers and workers. Thousands lost time, money, gas—and tempers.

City Hall is scrambling, meanwhile, to issue "individual passes and non-transferable security clearances to private motorists." Osmeña decides which one will his fountain bless. Belatedly, he conceded government vehicles can use a road his city does not own.

Governance by afterthought sparked protests. The city council, provincial governor, Vice Mayors League, the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among others, pressed for prompt remedies. Export processing zone firms and factories and resorts, in the south were strapped.

But that petition went unheeded. Two dilapidated city hall buses still block the coastal road's entry point.

That's not surprising. "We, Osmeñas, sometimes try out, for size, God's chair," former Gov. Emilio Osmeña joked on historical quirks that saw often-bickering family members to official posts.

"The real issue is not the road closure," says Vice Mayor Michael Rama. "It's the P10-billion city debt" Osmeña secured from Japan International Bank Cooperation to fund the 295-hectare South Reclamation Project. "Urgency of payment is not imaginary."

Cebu now hemorrhages from P1.5-million daily payments just for interest, Osmeña admits. "That includes Saturdays and Sundays." And the first payment of P500.5 million on the principal falls on September. This candid admission reverses his 1997 stance: This was a free lunch. Cebu would not pay even a centavo.

Like his barricade, Osmeña plunged into the yen-pawnhouse by his lonesome. Thereafter, he clamped an *omerta* on any discussion of the loan. His State of the City addresses ignored metastasizing IOUs.

"There but for the grace of God, goes god," commented a former adviser. The mayor brusquely brushed off his warning against looming serial devaluations.

Since then, the peso's plunge has seen the SRP loan bloat to thrice its original cost. Cebuano taxpayers today are strapped with almost double the national per capita foreign debt repayment burden.

Escalating payments were derailing basic city services when the suave first district Rep. Eduardo Gullas, from next-door Talisay City, staked a 10-minutes-to-midnight claim: 53 hectares of the reclaimed land belonged to his town. Gullas cited laws and reasons why Talisay had a "rightful claim," including territorial jurisdiction.

It won't wash. Talisay didn't lift a finger for the project over the past decade. Neither has it paid for SRP loans. *Si viene atrasao, hueso ay come,* the Chavancos say. "He who comes late eats the bones."

Talisay's claim, however, threw a spanner into title issuance. No one buys untitled land. This torpedoed Osmeña's emergency plan: to sell or lease, at fire-sale bargain rates, part of the SRP. This would yank Cebu out of its financial tailspin. The rest could help meet loan bills which will run until 2025.

"We have many investors coming in," the mayor told the Associated Labor Unions. There's basis for that claim. We saw, for instance, a Hong Kong newspaper clip indicating that Chinese manufacturing firms are planning a Cebu move.

But "land grabbers caused a problem," the mayor said. And this Osmeña usually resolves problems, by inflicting pain on the weak to compel action by the strong. He does that by bluster or impulsive action.

Thus, he evicted, from the city's market, Talisay vendors. Anchor Bobby Nalzaro's criticisms got under his collar; so he banned GMA-7 reporters from covering the Sinulog festival. He threatened to dump garbage at the Integrated Bar of the Philippines offices when it pressed City Hall to implement garbage segregation rules.

Osmeña's "Me Tarzan" syndrome led him to exclude from aid 18 barangays that voted the "wrong way" in the previous elections. "They don't recognize me," he fumed. "I won't recognize them."

"Has the mayor demoted himself from chief executive of a major city to overlord of politically friendly barangays?" asked Cebu Daily News in an editorial. "Exclusion by discrimination...is demented strategy."

Osmeña punishes those who do not toe his line, by using tax money, the "Governance By Hamlets" editorial stressed. "But by abandoning a substantial portion of the city, Osmeña reduces unwittingly his own writ."

By flogging innocent coastal road users, Osmeña is trying to compel Malacañang to issue the titles *pronto*. His sister Minnie wants to replace Representative Gullas. And a pliant councilor, Gabriel Leyson, will seek election as Talisay mayor. "Though this be madness, there is method in it," Hamlet muttered.

"Don't rush me," snapped Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. He's finalizing a DOJ opinion on whether to give a title to Cebu. Judge Anacleto Caminade took 10 days to issue an order directing City Hall to answer a petition for a restraining order. Harassed commuters and businessmen, with mounting losses, march to the beat of a different drummer.

"Mayor Osmeña has a good case," a foreign businessman here noted. "If only he were not a year-round jerk, fewer people would think he's burning your house down to cook himself a couple of eggs."

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Impunity

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LAST week, Nandy Pacheco got this message from an anonymous texter—I've put it in standard English with the proper editing: "Please tell Pacheco to shut up. We don't want to hear from him. The reason guns-for-hire are able to strike with impunity is [that] they know the citizens cannot carry guns and are powerless to defend themselves. And the police are nowhere to be found,.as in the case of Henry Lanot. If you outlaw guns, only hired guns will have guns. And why does he want tint in cars banned? This is a hot country, and tint gives a degree of protection from the sun."

Pacheco replied to this with typical religious fervor: "Got your message. Sorry to disappoint you, I will not shut up. You are free to do what you want. God loves you. I hope you love God, too."

Well, Pacheco may have to rethink his proposal to ban car tints a bit. This is a hot country, a point driven home to me each time I enter my 12-year-old Mitsubishi EL on a cloudless afternoon. And most afternoons in this dead of summer are cloudless. The housing project I live in has an open-air parking lot, with only a few trees with pitiful crowns to block off the sunlight. The sensation I get on entering my car is not unlike tumbling into an open furnace with a roaring pit. The wall of heat that greets me is almost solid. A well-meaning neighbor pointed out to me the problem. "Friend, it may help if you tint your windows. It doesn't have to be heavy, just enough to shade your car from the sun."

But Pacheco has nothing to rethink as far as his position on citizens toting guns outside their domiciles go. On the contrary, you can't get any battier suggestion than the one that has come his way from a detractor. The fellow's argument is silly: Guns-for-hire are able to wreak murder with impunity because their victims are defenseless. Therefore, put guns in everyone's hands.

That is a recipe for runaway mayhem. There is nothing romantic about the Wild Wild West except in the movies. The spectacle of two people drawing guns on each other to see who can do it faster is not exciting, it is idiotic. People die in the process, leaving wives and children to fend for themselves (they are never a factor in movies), and for no other reason than that they turned out to be not so good with a gun, along with not being so good with a microphone in a karaoke bar. More to the point, other people—*balut* vendors, bystanders, passersby—die in the process from stray bullets that should never have strayed in the first place, leaving the people who depend on them hungry. A truly Wild Wild East is what we'll be if we allow more guns to proliferate in this already mad and violent country.

Putting guns in the hands of the citizens isn't going to prevent them from being murdered. I don't know that the political figures who've recently been gunned down in Abra and elsewhere did not themselves carry guns or didn't have bodyguards. I don't know if the Left figures who have been assassinated over the past couple of months didn't do the same. In fact, I don't know if some of the journalists who have been cut down over the years didn't do the same. Carrying guns is not a natural deterrent against murder. It is only an incentive to bolder or more inventive ways of sending people to the grave.

Indeed, putting guns in the hands of the citizens can only ensure that many more of them will be murdered. The argument presumes that guns acquired for protection will be used only for protection. That presumes people who own guns will always be in their right minds, a presumption belied by the fact that a blind man nearly got a license from the WPD and by the provocations offered by daily life. Can you imagine what will happen if the drivers who are constantly pissed off by one another in this city's streets happened to be carrying guns? I myself can imagine a long line of corpses of bus drivers littering the pavement.

But far more than this, the idea of arming the citizens for their protection frees government from its fundamental duty of keeping the citizens safe. The notion of guns-for-hire being able to murder wantonly in this country was suggested by the French group Reporters Without Borders in reaction to the alarming rise of deaths of journalists here. We are now second only to Iraq as the most dangerous country in the world for journalists. The reason for this, Reporters pointed out, wasn't just the culture of violence, it was the "culture of impunity" that thrived here. Journalists got murdered because their murderers never feared any action from government. They could murder with impunity.

The solution to this is not to arm the citizens, which is a stupid idea, it is to demand from government that it does its job, which is well past due. I am particularly outraged by this because I am a journalist and my daughter is a journalist. Though the murder and mayhem have happened solely outside Metro Manila, I raise my voice against it out of both universal principle and personal interest. The indifference of the national media to it can only make it grow.

The point is to compel the authorities to do something about it. And there are very effective ways of compelling it. The BIR has been threatening lately to run after everybody, including the Church, to pay their taxes. Well, we can threaten the BIR, and indeed government itself as well, that we are not going to pay our taxes until we see those taxes come back to us in clinics rather than bullets, in means of improving life rather than in invitations to shortening it. That is what we pay taxes for, so we can get some peace of mind. No taxation without representation, no extortion without action.

Otherwise, we're just letting government get away with murder—with impunity.

Pope watch

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IF the world went through a death watch for Pope John Paul II last April 18, it also went into "Pope watch." Millions around the world stayed glued to CNN, waiting for the election of a new pope.

Last Tuesday evening, the INQUIRER editorial team, led by editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, joined the "Pope watch." Letty had lingered a while longer than usual, but she was gathering her things to leave when the smoke—first gray and then white—began curling out of the Sistine Chapel chimney at about 12:30 a.m., Wednesday, Manila time. She called up Dennis Valdes, who heads the INQUIRER press, and asked if he could stop the presses for a remat. By then the first edition of the INQUIRER had rolled out. But by some incredible glitch (which we attributed readily to a miracle by JPII), the INQUIRER machines had developed some minor trouble, so the second edition couldn't be run yet. The editorial team quickly changed the front page to banner the election of Pope Benedict XVI in its two-star edition.

Thanks to CNN's untrammeled coverage, JPII's death watch and funeral and Benedict XVI's election made two weeks of super-dramatic news, crowding out everything else in just about every living room in the world. For us in the media, it has been truly incredible, and not in another 100 years would we see this phenomenon again.

* * *

The media will be full of analyses of why Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, the first German Pope in a thousand years, was chosen over other "Papabili." I recall that Time magazine, in its April 11 commemorative issue on JPII, described Ratzinger a "formidable kingmaker" who could be "perhaps a compromise choice in an indecisive conclave." It argued that the cardinals, in reaction to JPII's long reign, "could simply decide not to decide" and name either Ratzinger or Camillo Cardinal Ruini, the president of the Italian Bishops Conference. In which case, Time said, either of them could be, in effect, "an interim Pontiff" who would for a few years carry out JPII's mandate "while the church takes a deep breath and decides where it really wants to head next." Ratzinger was thought as giving the Church the needed "pause" that redirects.

* * *

But the 77 votes given to Ratzinger on the fourth ballot, after 36 hours, do not make the conclave seem indecisive. In fact, the vote looks like a square bat by the cardinals for continuity of the legacy of the hugely loved JPII. Obviously in their estimation, this could only be handled by the man who worked so closely with him for 24 years as head of the "Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith." There he helped shape the thinking of JPII on some of the most crucial issues facing the Church, and it's rumored that he was actually running it in the last two years of JPII's reign.

* * *

The fact is that Ratzinger is a man of powerful presence who can't be ignored. As dean of the College of Cardinals, he took center stage as the officiator at the Mass for JPII's funeral in front of all the world. His homily was a tender, lyrical tribute to his longtime superior, which US President George W. Bush praised as "so eloquent." Ratzinger cited how JPII's artistic background became "an essential part of his pastoral mission" and how his having been "profoundly rooted in Christ" enabled him to bear a burden which "transcends merely human abilities": being the shepherd of Christ's flock, his universal Church. Ratzinger also noted how JPII "increasingly entered into the communion of Christ's sufferings," and the message of his suffering and his silence "proved so eloquent and so fruitful."

* * *

As chief of doctrinal policy, Ratzinger handled some of the biggest controversies in JPII's reign, where he was at times criticized for "inquisitorial tactics." He also made some powerful antagonists right within the Church and his recent election has discouraged some sectors who find him "too conservative." Just before the conclave began, he fired a "final stump speech" that warned of dangers and trends taking root in the Church, including "the ideology that there are no 'absolute truths.'" But whether his views are liked or not, Ratzinger has gained the respect of many for the superiority of his intellect and his vast experience.

* * *

Reading about his background, I thought of him as the Marine general of the Church, leading the assault forces on the various beachheads of controversy. He tackled the "Modernists" as well as the tensions between the Vatican and various national bishops' conferences in the post-Vatican II era (he was said to have regarded those conferences at first as not too-genuine expressions of "collegiality"). In his job as chief doctrinaire, he had to dialogue and tangle with various dissenters—one of them his former student, a Brazilian Franciscan named Leonardo Boff, who preached a decentralized church which seemed the exact opposite of Ratzinger's view. There were also a couple of Liberation theologists from Latin America in the late '70s and early '80s, whom JPII clamped down on, a move attributed to the influence of Ratzinger.

* * *

What's in a name? They say the name chosen by a new pope indicates his thinking. This may be true of Benedict XVI. His immediate namesake was Benedict XV, a patrician Genoese who reigned from 1914 to 1922, right during the terrible years when Europe was plunged into World War I. Benedict XV condemned the war wholeheartedly, but remained neutral.

On the other hand, the inspiration behind the new Pope's name may have come from St. Benedict, the Italian hermit who died in 821. St. Benedict founded a monastery at Monte Cassino whose "Rules" formed the basis of Western monasticism and reform. Historians credit his order with contributing immensely to the progress of spirituality in the Church during the Middle Ages and to its struggle for liberation from control by the laity.

Billboards from hell

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IF someone had already used the above title, please, may I use it again? I couldn't find a nastier one.

Every person and her or his first cousin living in this metropolis and yonder surely have a billboard complaint to air. I have mine, you have yours and chances are, we're all talking about the same things. The unending row of gigantic billboards lining the highways. The smaller ones, zillions of them, hung on lampposts in the middle of the road. The defacement, the darkening, the uglification of the sky and the horizon. The offensive, stupid content.

In saecula saeculorum. The repetitiveness, the eternity of this brazen assault on your senses just blows your mind to billboard hell. It is an Andy Warhol nightmare except that it is also yours and mine. How did we come to this?

Last year, I wrote a piece on billboards when the offensive, double-entendre "*kinse anyos*" ad of Napoleon Brandy created a furor. I had an e-mail avalanche from irate readers who were thankful someone had expressed their pent-up disgust in print.

But that was about content. I mentioned then that before the outcry against the Napoleon Brandy ad, there was this huge billboard near the foot of the Nagtahan Bridge that was just as offensive. I saw it every time I came from the INQUIRER in Makati and headed for home via Nagtahan. It showed a young girl, about 15 or 16, in a reclining position and with her legs sufficiently spread out. She had her big pleading eyes looking up, and she had the fly of her jeans unzipped and wide open to show her skimpy panty and most of her pubic area. Lee was the jeans brand. (They sell jeans that way?)

It was there for many months and I wondered whether Manila mayor-pro-lifer Lito Atienza noticed it, or whether the President did every time she came from Malacañang and was headed north.

Billboards used to be made of metal sheets that were hand-painted. Now they are made of plastic sheets that come out of giant printing machines. I once saw a team of workers preparing to hoist up a billboard. The sheets flowed like a river and covered a whole sidewalk.

This reminded me of the European artist Kristo who covered entire buildings and structures with canvas and then had them photographed. He mummified entire landscapes even if only for the duration of his outdoor exhibition. He was making a statement while the population watched in awe and puzzlement. Our advertising and billboard industries leave nothing for the imagination.

The issue now against billboards is not just their content. It is their proliferation. It is the inconsiderate, wanton, crude, rude desire to call attention and to sell. Manufacturers plaster giant pictures of their products everywhere. Globe and Smart, you are No. 1. Happee toothpaste, you made Jasmine Trias' face pathetic.

Well, their days might soon be over. Citizens have banded together to fight this mental and physical hazard, this aggression and oppression. Environmental activists, motorists, artists, educators, social scientists, consumers, lawyers, media practitioners, public servants, businessmen and many others from various fields have formed the Anti Billboard Coalition (ABC). Call 6471181 if you want to join.

Edsa and main thoroughfares, expressways, rooftops, the bucolic and beautiful landscape in the provinces that beckon people home—they are now groaning under the weight of billboards. We have become a billboard wasteland.

Once upon a time billboards stood parallel to the highway. Now they are placed on a diagonal position or on a right angle to the road so that they can face, overwhelm and distract motorists.

How many billboard structures have collapsed during the typhoon season? How have these billboards affected our aesthetic values, how much have they added to the cacophony in our lives?

The problem with billboards is that when one brand manufacturer puts up one, the competition has to do the same and so forth and so on. There is no end, no limit. But what about those who are not selling a consumer product, why do they have to join the fray? You see huge ones announcing the arrival of evangelists or crowing about the projects of elected officials.

The billboard disease has spread to the rest of society. Now, everybody just hangs or nails anything on an empty space. "*Tubero,*" "room 4 rent," "lady bedspacer" and "*manghihilot*" announcements have been around for a long time, but now you have "Happy Fiesta" and "Congratulations graduates" from councilor so-and-so.

And what about those billboards on a seminary property along Edsa? The priests there must be making oodles of money. Taxman, here. And who's making money from ads hung on government property such as overpasses and traffic lights?

During a gathering of the anti-billboard activists, I said that, perhaps, banning billboards all together would make the competing brand manufacturers happy. With billboards outlawed, they no longer have to spend on this type of advertising to outdo one another.

The billboard industry is big. Many sectors are involved—the manufacturers, advertising companies, models, site-hunters, property owners, billboard printers, construction companies. Will this Goliath crash and crumble? Sorry for those who invested in this business. You put your money and people in something so ugly and so wrong.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has two bills pending. Senate Bill 1714, the "Anti-Billboard Act" seeks to regulate the placement of billboard signs. SB 1668 is "an act prohibiting officers from claiming credit through signage announcing a public works project."

Happy Earth Day tomorrow!

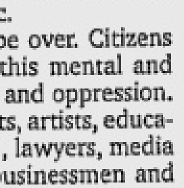
* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Victory for orthodoxy

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



JOSEPH Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, will surely have an interesting papacy. It will not be the kind of papacy many Catholics in the United States, or even in the Philippines, will want. But it will be the kind of papacy that the under-represented (because, they lack access to media, unlike Americans and other "liberal" Catholics) and perhaps, a larger group of Catholics want: a pope unafraid to say he has the answers and to impose that very German thing, "order," in the Catholic Church.

At first blush, the overwhelming consensus is that the Catholic Church is poised to enter a period approximating the Counter Reformation, the period in which Catholicism vigorously opposed Protestantism. Protestants may not be happy with the conclave's choice, but what is generally overlooked is that there may be another group of Christians keenly interested in Benedict XVI's potential moves.

One has to think in terms of centuries to understand why some Christians might be interested in the new Pope. If Benedict XVI is the first German Pope in nearly 1,000 years, there is a fundamental division in Christianity nearly as ancient. This is the division between Orthodox Christians and Catholics.

During John Paul II's funeral Mass, there was a large and important delegation of bishops from the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches, who share many of the basic beliefs of Catholics, except on one thing: the primacy of the pope. Then Cardinal Ratzinger, during the Mass, in the portion of the Eucharistic Prayer where the union of the Church with its bishops, priests and faithful is invoked, inserted a special mention of the Orthodox bishops present. This was a great—because potentially historic—innovation. Some Catholic commentators have gone as far to suggest that one of the biggest priorities of the new Pope will be to achieve an ancient dream: the reunion of the Orthodox and Catholics. After all, the new Pope and the Orthodox have more in common, in terms of their understanding of Christianity and its practice, than the new Pope and "liberal" Catholics do.

As for divining the new papacy, Andrew Greeley, a well-known novelist, but also a priest who is known to be a "liberal" Catholic, published some interesting comments about then Cardinal Ratzinger: "His spirituality," for one, "is less romantic than that of the late Pope. He is not the kind of man who would ardently believe that Our Lady of Fatima jarred the hand of the Turkish assassin who tried to kill John Paul II..." Indeed, "Many devout Catholics would recoil at his blunt assertion... that it is wrong to say that the Holy Spirit elects the pope because there have been popes the spirit would never have elected. He might also be less likely than some other popes to identify his convictions with direct communication from God."

Greeley also adds that "When it was proposed after the Pope's funeral that the cardinals be forbidden to talk to the media, he suggested that such a prohibition would violate freedom of speech, and that if they wanted such a rule, they should rather unanimously adopt it—a technicality perhaps but not an unimportant one." And that, "He is also supposed to have persuaded John Paul that birth control was not an appropriate issue for an infallible declaration. Finally, the processing of the pedophile cases from the American bishops suggests that he and his staff are aware of the dimensions of the problem." In other words, the new Pope is more complicated than people like to think.

Elitist is the general view of the new Pope, according to noted Catholic journalist John L. Allen, Jr.: "Ratzinger would mount a strenuous defense of Catholic identity, resisting enticements from secular culture to water-down church teaching and practice; he would stress 'Culture of Life' issues, doing battle against gay marriage, euthanasia and stem cell research; he would ensure that theological speculation is contained within narrow limits. He would likely travel less, and project a more ethereal style... Ratzinger's governing metaphor for the church of the future is the mustard seed—it may have to be smaller to be faithful, what he calls a 'creative minority.'

"Under Ratzinger, the Vatican would be less likely to expend resources to preserve institutions it perceives as already lost to secularism. In his memoirs 'Milestones,' Ratzinger reflected on the German church's struggle to hold onto its schools under the Nazis... Under Ratzinger, the Vatican would be less likely to expend resources to preserve institutions it perceives as already lost to secularism."

Allen quotes the new Pope as having said, "It dawned on me that, with their insistence on preserving institutions, [the bishops] in part misread the reality. Merely to guarantee institutions is useless if there are no people to support those institutions from inner conviction."

Allen suggests that "In the case of at least some colleges, Ratzinger's instinct would thus be to drop the pretense that these are still Catholic institutions," again quoting a book-length interview of Ratzinger's, called "Salt of the Earth": "Once the church has acquired some good or position, she inclines to defend it. The capacity for self-moderation and self-pruning is not adequately developed ... it's precisely the fact that the church clings to the institutional structure when nothing really stands behind it any longer that brings the church into disrepute."

In other words, the new Pope may be poised to embark on a purge, disengaging the Church from institutions originally Catholic (such as many Western universities), but today overwhelmingly secular in outlook; he might also, in a sense, "privatize" many hospitals, social service centers and other institutions that are nominally Catholic.

Smart bomb

YOUNG BLOOD

Michelle F. Cheidjew

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AT FIRST, we couldn't believe that a bomb could be smart, simply because it's a bomb and a bomb has no brain. A bomb can't think on its own. It only goes wherever it is directed. It just kills whomever it is aimed at. It doesn't ask "why" or "what if" or "is there no other way." It doesn't say no, it doesn't say yes, it doesn't tell us to stop or to go on. It doesn't remind us which is good and which is bad, maybe, because there's no need to—we're supposed to know; in the first place, we're humans, and to ask a bomb on matters only humans are supposed to know is sheer stupidity. And precisely because it's a bomb, it's brainless, it's not smart, it can't be smart.

But now smart people are saying it can be smart. A bomb can be made smart. All it needs is a microchip, or a sensor, or whatever, and a bomb will become smart. Not that a microchip, or a sensor, or whatever can substitute for the brain that the bomb doesn't have and will never have. Keep in mind that it's still a bomb, only a smart one. Still, it will not ask any question or question any action. But mind you, a smart bomb is a better listener, a better follower, a better performer than an ordinary one. It will go exactly where we tell it to go, kill exactly whom we tell it to kill, destroy exactly what we tell it to destroy.

A smart bomb is a hundred times more powerful than an ordinary bomb. Therefore, having possession of a smart bomb makes a person a hundred times more powerful. So if we have a smart bomb, we better be extra careful in telling it what to do. We better be extra careful in deciding who's to live and who's to die, who's to laugh and who's to cry. But since we're experienced bomb-handlers (Hiroshima, Vietnam, among many others, taught us enough about bombs), why worry?

Yes, why worry? It's a smart bomb invented by smart brains, so expect smart results. So instead of worry, worry, worry, let's hurray, hurray, hurray. For the smart bomb is a success. Our success.

Just think about this. Apes can't make a smart bomb. Dogs can't make a smart bomb. Pigs can't make a smart bomb. Neither can rats, nor ants, nor bugs, nor roaches. But because we're not apes or dogs or pigs or rats or ants or bugs or roaches, we're able to make one. Because we are what we are. And we have what those animals don't have and will never have. Although, we do not know what they have that we don't have and will never have.

Never mind. It doesn't matter. What matters is what we have that they don't have; not what they have that we don't have. Who cares about the heart nowadays?

So let it fly, set the smart bomb free. Hurray, hurray! There goes the smart bomb to set us free from our fears. And to set others free from their fears. Free from somebody who has all the power and oil in the world. Hurray! Hurray! Who says that something so bad can't bring about something so good? Something so deadly can't save lives?

Ironic? Better say practical and realistic, and sure and efficient and easy. Yes, that's the word, easy. Solutions coming so easily, at the drop of a bomb. A smart bomb.

Solutions, solutions, solutions. How we all love solutions to problems none of us dares or cares to remember. That's good, solutions, although not all solutions are good; some even create more problems. Never mind. It doesn't matter. Good or.bad. Bad or good. What's good and what matters is us. What's good for us.

Hurray, hurray! Down with dictators. Down with the terrorists. Down with the bad people. Down comes the bomb, our smart bomb. Down, down it goes, and down, down we also go. Our humanity. Our character. Never mind. It doesn't matter. Who cares about the heart nowadays?

And up, up, the bodies fly, up up they go, never to touch ground again—whole and intact.

Never mind. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if it's a bullet aimed at the wrong heart. It doesn't matter if it's the wrong person put behind bars. It doesn't matter whose head rolls on the ground. It doesn't matter if it's their men or our men killed, if it's their mothers or our mothers crying. It doesn't matter whether it's a 90-year-old man or a 9-month-old baby buried alive. It doesn't matter if ours is the right ideas with the wrong purpose. It doesn't matter.

It's not really about government. It's not really about religions. It's not really about oil. It's about life and power, and what we ought to do with them. It's about interests and priorities, and who deserves to get what. It's about dreams and hopes and futures. And if it will need a war to achieve all these, then war will it be. After all, there is the smart bomb.

Yes, the smart bomb is not really smart.

Perhaps, someday we can come up with a better type of bomb. Say, a wise bomb. Or a benevolent bomb. But before that, we better first come up with a better type of brain. Say, a wise brain. Or a benevolent one.

Michelle F. Cheidjew, 17, is a second year journalism student at the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Shaky predictions

"I cannot tell psychics not to make predictions... But I hope they have better and correct predictions next time, so they will not cause panic."

—Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology chief Jane Punongbayan on rumors that a strong earthquake was going to hit Metro Manila last April 14.

Street families

"From the problem of street children, we now have the problem of street families who look at the streets as a lucrative venue for livelihood."

—Nancy Roman, head of the street children unit of the Department of Social Welfare and Development-National Capital Region

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The self-employment option

I READ Raul Palabrica's column on our educational system's focus on paid employment. (PDI, 3/27/05) I agree with him.

We are, after all, not an industrialized country and, therefore, employment opportunities here are not as abundant as in other more developed countries.

Second, with our economy in the doldrums, an average worker is earning P300 or less a day, not enough to support his and his family's everyday needs.

Third, our workers will not have to go abroad if they have their own business. The money they would otherwise spend in processing their papers and paying their placement fees, they can use to start a small business.

Fourth, we have vast resources in our country waiting to be tapped. We just have to use our imagination and skills to turn these resources into profits.

At the end of the last school year, two million or so graduates more have been added to the already long list of job-seekers. To most of them, getting employed looks uncertain, especially given the present state of our economy. Why don't schools in our country encourage students to consider self-employment as a serious alternative to paid employment? Why don't we learn from the Chinese who would rather go into business? And look at them now.

We should expand our horizon and imagination. We can find a better life beyond employment in a multinational company.

Many of us would rather have a regular paycheck, never mind if underpaid, because we are afraid to venture into business, to face uncertainty. But that kind of uncertainty can be turned into success by hard work, discipline, diligence and patience. Running a business involves great risks, but why be afraid to risk your money in a business venture here in our country and instead risk your life abroad, away from your family and your loved ones?

If only our schools and the government would provide the necessary assistance to our young graduates in developing their entrepreneurship ability and skill, unemployment and poverty could yet be eradicated in this country.

We have more and better options to paid employment than we think.

—JEFFREY P. PERALTA,
Sampaloc, Manila

Mockery of freedom of religion

THE NEWS item "[Raul] Gonzalez orders watch on Muslim scholars and converts" (PDI, 3/30/05) revealed the government's paranoia and its inadequacy to secure genuine peace and equality. It has gone to such extremes as trampling on people's religious views and looking for a scapegoat.

The directive to closely watch "Filipinos who have converted to Islam or studied in Islamic schools abroad in order to guard against possible terrorist attacks," made by no less than the person charged with the execution of justice in the land, must be strongly condemned by all religious people, and everyone who cares to stand up for what is just.

It is clearly harassment and poses a direct threat to freedom of religion enshrined in the Constitution. Such statement is immoral, rude and unbecoming to a government of a country that prides itself in being a Christian nation.

So, when are we going to start the "Inquisition," Mr. Justice Secretary? It seems that, indeed, history repeats itself. We're back to the dark age of religious intolerance and persecution: the days when Christians were thrown into the lions' den, to the witch hunts of old Salem, and to the torture and murder of religious reformers.

Gonzalez must bear in mind that the targets of his order are first and foremost, Filipinos. And he is slandering their status as citizens by casting them as "terrorists" just because they are "Muslim converts," which also implies that people automatically become "terrorists" once they convert to Islam. That is an attack on religious freedom!

Has Gonzalez ever labeled someone a "Christian terrorist" or a "Christian rapist" or a "Christian thief"? His directive is blatantly discriminatory, and grossly exhibits prejudice against a certain group of persons of particular religious views. The government should look in the mirror and see if it is any better than those it accuses as "terrorists."

When a government stands up for the property rights of the rich over the poor, when a government slams labor's call for a living wage, when a government is powerless to address poverty and hunger, doesn't that government become a terrorist to its own people?

Gonzalez should apologize not only to our Muslim sisters and brothers but also to all Filipinos. All Christian leaders and people of faith should protest this mockery of religious freedom.

—REV. ISRAEL I. ALVARAN,
Graduate Theological Union,
Berkeley, California, USA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Drugstores gain despite discount

AFTER READING the article "Drugstores ask SC to void seniors' discount," (PDI, 1/21/05) I found it expedient, as a senior citizen, to submit my own computation on the petitioners' profits.

I shall use the figures of the petitioners together with my own which is the ratio between the total population of the Philippines—83 million and the number of senior citizens—5 million. These figures—5 million divided by 83 million equals .06, which means that out of every 100 people, 6 are senior citizens and 94 are non-seniors. All are potential buyers of medicine. These are key figures which were missed by the petitioners.

Using the petitioners' example, this is my computation:

1. Gain from the sale of medicine to 94 non-seniors is equal to P39.60, minus P37.57 (loss from sale of medicine to 6 senior citizens) multiplied by 94 non-seniors, plus result of P2.53 multiplied by 6 equals P206.
2. Loss from sale of medicine to 6 senior citizens is equal to P37.57, minus 20 percent multiplied by 6 seniors is equal to P45.08.
3. Result: Gain, P206; Loss, P45.08.

A look at the result of the computation shows that the total gain is P206 while the loss is P45.08. There is a difference of P160.92. The drugstores are gaining instead of losing as claimed by the petitioners.

—PEDRO G. ORILLE,
president,
Agoo Senior Citizens Association,
Senior Citizens Center,
Rizal Park Compound,
Agoo, La Union 2504

Committed to promote and protect OFW interests

THIS has reference to the letter of Migrante International secretary general Maita Santiago (PDI, 3/29/05) on the alleged inaction of the government—Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, in particular—on Japan's new immigration law.

While we are pleased with Migrante's expressed concern for undocumented Filipino workers in Japan, it must be clear to everyone that the recent changes in Japan's immigration policy is basically an issue on human trafficking.

For the past several months, Philippine officials composed of representatives from the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Foreign Affairs have been closely coordinating with Japanese authorities in an effort to cushion the impact of the new law on our so-called overseas performing artists (OPAs), including undocumented ones.

Based on the records of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, it appears that there are, indeed, many undocumented Filipinos in Japan. In 2003 alone, the POEA reported that out of 80,000 visas issued that year, it only processed 63,000 contracts.

It is a sad fact that anyone caught overstaying in Japan will be penalized in accordance with existing Japanese laws. However, in a meeting with Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General Kaoro Ishikawa late last year, the Philippine mission, led by Labor Undersecretary Danilo P. Cruz and Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes, was assured that victims of human trafficking are not going to be automatically deported even if found to be in violation of immigration laws; they will be sheltered, given protection and rehabilitation assistance as well as the opportunity to testify against the trafficker while an investigation is being conducted.

Although the new immigration policy in Japan is prejudicial to the interest of Filipino workers there—both documented and undocumented—the Philippine government also recognizes the fact that it has been designed mainly to address human trafficking in a way that it protects from exploitation overseas workers, many of whom are Filipino entertainers who have legitimately entered Japan.

It is, therefore, wrong and unfair to say that the Philippine government did not lift a finger to address the problems that Japan's new immigration policy might have caused our workers in Japan. The government remains committed to serve the best interest of Filipino workers who provide substantial contribution to the Philippine economy through their remittances.

—JEFFREY D. CORTAZAR,
assistant secretary,
Information and Publication Service, Department of Labor and Employment,
Intramuros, Manila

Indecent billboards

WHEN I go to Quezon City from my town, I cannot help but notice the billboards along the highway. I believe in the power of advertising, but isn't it too blatant to show scantily attired models on the billboards?

The advertisers should not think that people from the province would crave for their products because they are advertised by indecently clad models.

—MYRNA A. BADUA,
33 Sipulo, Bacnotan,
2515 La Union

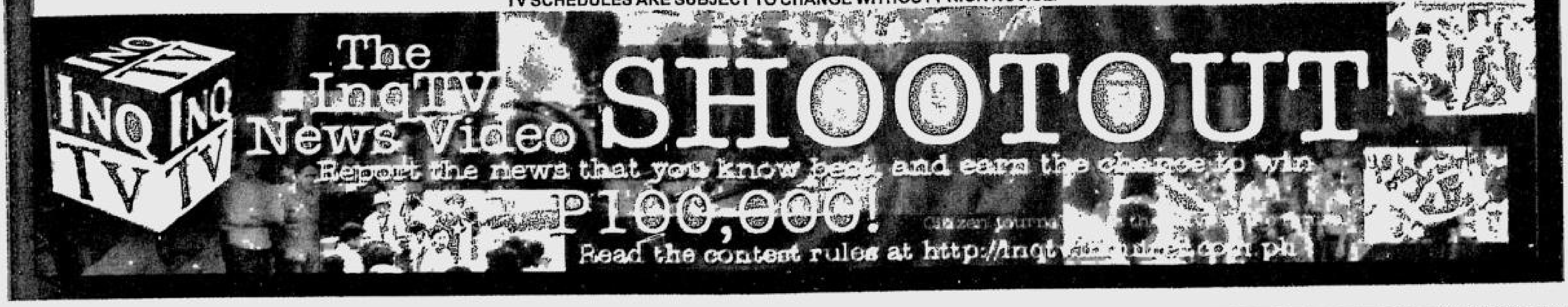
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Thursday April 21, 2005

WOWmalingMaLi!
9PM SABADO SABAGO!
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10PM)	Naruto (5:35PM)	Vidjoking	TV Patrol		Kamao	Krystala	Hiram	Spirits	Memories Of Bali	Stained Glass	Maalaala Mo Kaya		Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol		Inq TV	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Hungry Heart	Knockout	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	All About Eve (8:45PM)	Full House (9:15PM)		Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Scare Tactics	The Ring	Infamous Murders	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		Johnny Walker Classic				One-On-One	IBC News Tonite		
JackTV		WWE Smackdown				Mutant League	Heavy Gear	Maxxtrel	Avengers	Stargate SG1		Thunder Box		JAG		True Crime			
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Combo Nick				Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Gagay				All My Life				Lalaban Ako				Patayin Sa Sindak Si Barbara				Babangon Ang Huling Patak Ng Dugo	
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Batman Beyond	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model			Miss Match		News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: NY (Season I)		The Amazing Race 7		7 Days (Season III)		Pensacola (Season III)		30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	Lost		The Contender		The Contender	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		American Idol	Growing Up Gotti	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	American Idol	Growing Up Gotti	The Chronicle: News From The Edge/The Simple Life 2	Arrested Development	The Apprentice			American Idol
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Frontlines Of Construction		Explorations Powered By Duracell		Evolution		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Frontlines Of Construction: Pipe Dream/ Moving The Monsters/Defying Gravity		Explorations Powered By Duracell	
Solar Sports				KOTV Classics				Super X Series 1	The Badminton Masters '05 Finals				NBA TV Daily	NBA Game Dallas @ Memphis					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		Area		Road & Track	Back To Basics
HBO	Red Water			Only You (4:10PM)				The Great Outdoors			Epoch: Evolution			Torque			Charlotte Gray (10:25PM)		
Star Movies		Sabretooth (3:15PM)				Hollywood One On One	Holes				K-911 (7:25PM)			Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story				Fear	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	The Powerpuff Girls	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax			Hard To Kill			Mind Of The Crime			Clear And Present Danger					Shelter Island			Another 48 Hrs. (10:20PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The District		Strong Medicine		Gracie's Choice			Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		The District (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Extreme Machines		Ultimates		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Power Zone	
Sports Plus	Arena Football: Colorado @ Chicago						Search TV	Raceworld		World's Greatest Auto Shows		Italia Serie A				NASCAR Samsung/Radioshack 500			
NBN		Taiwan/ Winner TV Shopping		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision	Next Stop			Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Sinulog Festival					

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.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Question of the Week

Do you support the transport strike by jeepney operators who are pushing for a fare hike (due to increasing fuel prices)? Why or why not?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! Ü

Key in: inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jana at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Entering the world of the written word

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

MANG Ruben (not his real name) was already 67 years old when he learned how to write his name and the oldest among the inmate students inside the District Prison in Del Rosario, Naga City.

Now a free man after serving his sentence for homicide, he had expressed hesitation to leave prison in 2003.

"I felt a mixed feeling of facing the outside world and the fear of parting with the [instruction] in prison where I learned to read, write and compute," he said.

For six years now, the mobile teaching strategy of the Department of Education has been reaping praises and its nonformal education program has been drawing new learners among illiterates, aged 10 to 67 years old.

Evelyn SB. Depositario, the pioneer mobile teacher who gave Mang Ruben lessons every Sunday from 2000 to 2002, said teaching an inmate was a unique experience.

She said the teaching approach varies with the number of students.

Mang Ruben started to unlock the puzzle of the written word on the first week of receiving instruction by learning the right way of planting pumpkins. He wanted to plant squash in the district jail garden, she said.

He enjoyed discovering word combinations that led to learning the diphthongs and identifying common daily used words, like "*laba*."

"The instruction does not [have hard and fast] rules. It is flexible. For example, you don't need to argue but to entertain unexpected discussions of some personal matters in the middle of giving instructions, if your learner leads you to them," she said.

She said they didn't give grades but target that at least they memorize and recognize the written words of their names.

'When Mang Ruben was finally released from prison, he already skipped the thumbmarking because he could now read instructions and sign his name.

He had worked as a carpenter until he was found guilty of homicide and committed to a maximum of 12 years in prison. But the sentence was downgraded to *prison mayor* so he served only six and a half years.

"I sent all my seven daughters to school and all graduated from college, but no one among them ever bothered to help me learn to read and write," Mang Ruben lamented.

He is now living with his youngest daughter in their old house in Pili, Camarines Sur. His daughter works in the government. His wife died on his third year in prison.

He said he was back to his carpentry job, but his whole feeling about himself has totally changed since the time he was struggling to live a life without knowing the meaning of written words.

Youngest learner

The youngest learner in the mobile teaching program is Boknoy, a 10-year-old child of a farming-scavenging couple.

Depositario said the parents of the boy were discouraged at the thought of losing one hand that had helped feed the family.

Boknoy started heavy labor at the age of seven, helping his parents scavenge in the city dump. Being the eldest among four siblings, he was obliged to help his family survive.

From February to March, Boknoy would be busy planting tubers in a small lot in the village of Cararayan, a government relocation site of informal settlers displaced from areas surrounding Naga's business central district.

The parents were convinced to let Boknoy receive instructions once a week and Depositario agreed to visit the boy in their house every Wednesday. Each session lasted for at least three hours.

Depositario said illiterate children were faster learners than the older ones.

She said she had experienced the lowest achievement of only letter-writing and recognition of name, and her 60-year-old female student could not go on further to reading other words.

After two years of varying approaches, her student remained in the same level of proficiency—only writing and differentiating her name and nothing more.

Language

Depositario said she engaged in educational instruction with five adult sisters who had totally no knowledge in reading and writing.

Since all of them knew how to sew their own dresses—in fact, her group of students has one sewing machine in their house, she introduced language and communication beginning with the word "*abaga* (shoulders)."

Depositario said "*abaga*" was used as facilitating word to introduce the "a, b, k, d."

She was amazed, she said, at the speed of learning the five sisters displayed, with the youngest already qualified to be placed in college after five years of instruction.

For six years since she started giving special educational instructions in 1999, after pioneering the practice of the mobile teaching method of DepEd's Basic Literacy Mobile Teacher Project, Depositario has handled at least 100 learners.

But, she said, by practice and experience, they were forced to accept the reality that there are as many children who are out-of-school—the kids at the elementary-age level but have not entered school.

A MOBILE teacher of the nonformal education program of the Department of Education handles a class of out-of-school-children in Naga City.
JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

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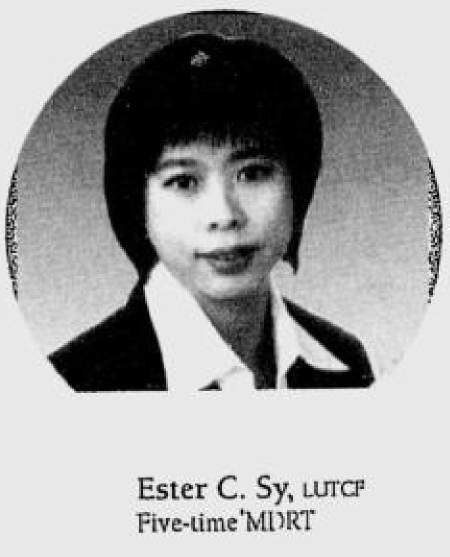

Ester C. Sy, LUTCF
Five-time MDRT

Bless the Children   Cartwheel Foundation

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DA, DOH form anti-bird flu task force

MAGALANG, Pampanga—Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday signed a joint administrative order creating the National Avian Influenza Task Force to keep the Philippines bird flu-free.

The NAITF was created as outbreaks of the virus have spread across Asia, killing 51 people who contracted the virus from fowls in Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, agriculture and health officials said during a summit held ahead of the signing of the order.

The order also adopted a two-pronged protection program and its manual of procedures. The order came after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 280 directing the departments of agriculture and health to respond to what Dayrit called a "potential problem."

Dayrit, in a press briefing, called the threat "permanent," pointing out that the Philippines is surrounded by avian influenza-affected countries.

The Philippines is, in fact, the only country spared from bird flu in the region, he said. That, he pointed out, was the result of an import ban since May 2001.

Yap said the creation of the NAITF was the "fruit of months of cooperative work with the private sector."

He cited the role of those in the poultry industry that were expected to play a very critical role in the campaign in safeguarding people's lives, the P750-billion agricultural sector and the economy as well.

He said the poultry industry in the country alone accounts for P150 billion.

Yap said the expected economic impact of the bird flu on the agriculture and tourism sectors could be "tremendous."

The Central Luzon summit at the Pampanga Agricultural College here on Wednesday kicked off the other conferences of local task forces in 19 other critical sites all over the country.

Yap and Dayrit said the launch was made in Pampanga because it was doubly vulnerable to two likely sources of the virus—migratory birds and the poultry industry.

The province, some 90 km north of Metro Manila, hosts the Candaba Swamp, the home of migratory birds, and is considered the egg basket in the region.

The other critical sites are Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Sibugay, Palawan (Quezon and Narra towns), Ilocos Norte (Pagudpud town), Cagayan (Aparri town), Cebu (Olango Island), Negros Occidental-Himamaylan, Isabela-Magat Dam-Ramon, Caraga-Lake Mainit, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Panay Island-Roxas-Capiz, Sorsogon-Bulan and Matnog, General Santos City, Mindoro Oriental-Naujan and Cotabato-Cabacan-Liguasan Marsh.

Dr. Jose Molina, Bureau of Animal Industry director, said bird flu surveillance in those areas yielded negative results.

Molina said the probability of infection from migratory birds was "not so great" compared to poultry affected by the virus. But waterfowls, especially ducks, were "most dangerous."

He said poultry owners should prevent the contact of migratory birds with local poultry to prevent possible contamination of bird flu.

"Just watch them (migratory birds), don't touch them and prevent their contact with the local poultry," he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

NEVERLAND

JAY DIRECTO/AFP

A subsistence fisherman carries his day's catch after docking on the beach in Batanes, a group of volcanic islands that has been virtually untouched by time.

MILF leader says group insists on independence

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would push for independence as a solution to the decades-old Bangsamoro problem, a ranking rebel official said yesterday.

The statement by Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, could dampen hopes that the rebel group would agree to recent proposals from the government to end the dragging Moro rebellion.

The government has offered to expand the scope of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, from the current 14 provinces and one city.

Jaafar said the Moro people have no other aspiration but to become independent again.

Until the arrival of the Spanish colonizers, the Moro people had existed as a nation and ruled by sultans.

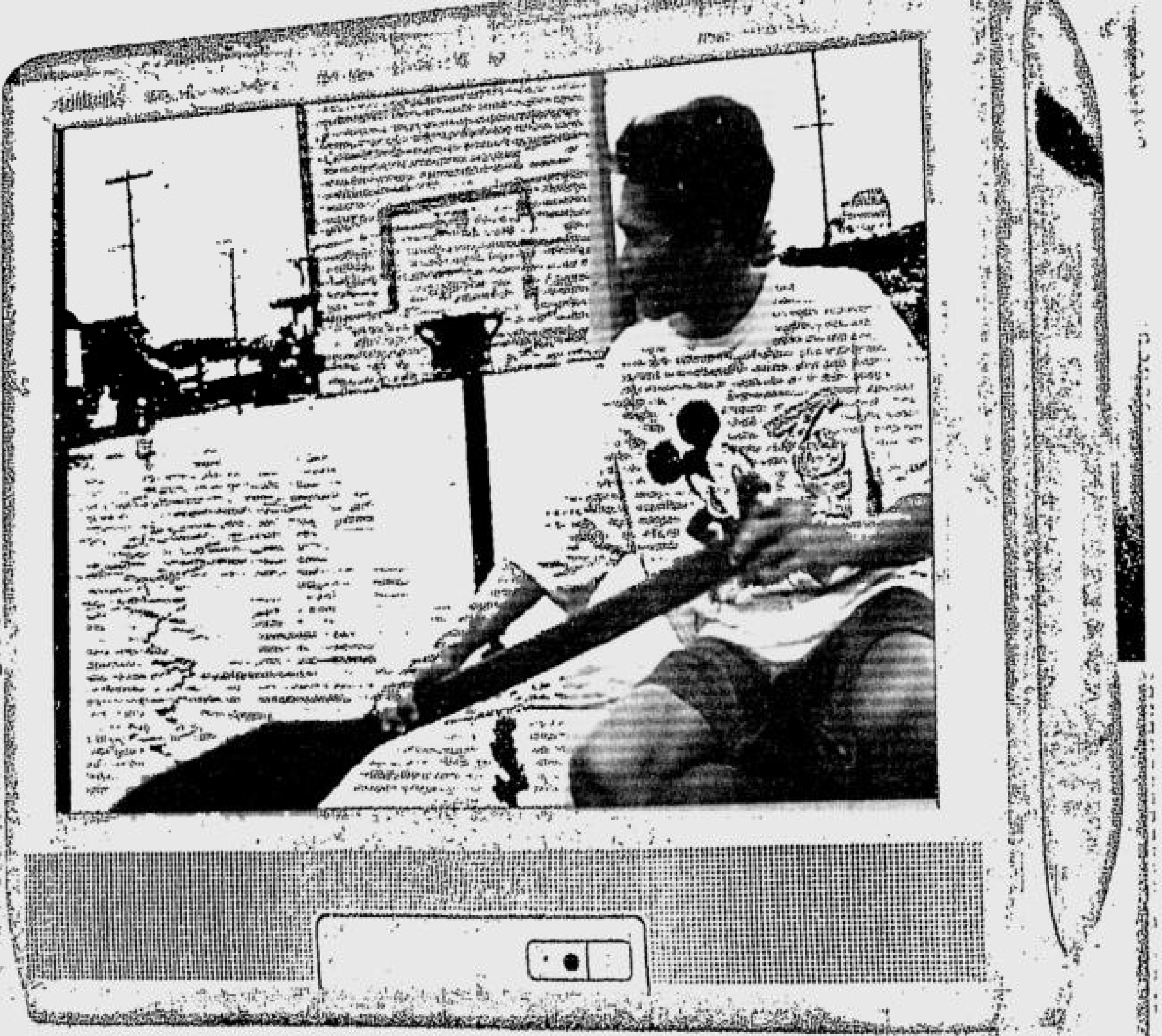
Jaafar told the INQUIRER that the MILF has not wavered in its support for Moro independence.

Earlier, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf called on the MILF to abandon their armed struggle and help the Philippine economy progress.

"His appeal (President Musharraf) was his personal view only. I believed that the Pakistan president has enough ideas on our problem. But, it's up for the Bangsamoro people to decide, whom majority of them, prefer independence. So, the front's position, we will push for independence," Jaafar said. *Joeffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GANITO TAYO NGAYON
Larawan ng isang naghihikahos na lungsod
Byline Edson Tandoc Jr.

INQ TV



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Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Tuwing Huwebes, 10:30 ng gabi,
pagkatapos ng American Idol! Dito lang sa ABC

HOPE Globe HANDYPHONE

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute

Qualifiers to the 2005 Science and Technology Scholarship announced

1,737 pass 2005 S&T Scholarship Exam

Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro of the Department of Science and Technology announced that a total of 1,737 high school graduates who took the S & T Scholarship Examination last 9 January 2005 have qualified for scholarship awards of the DOST-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI). She said that this year's qualifiers were selected from among 18,606 examinees from various regions nationwide. There were 1,366 who qualified for RA 7687 Science and Technology Scholarships, while 371 will be awarded with the DOST-SEI Merit Scholarships. The scholars must enroll in 4 or 5-year baccalaureate degrees in priority science and technology fields.

Dr. Ester B. Ogena, SEI Director, said that the scholars will receive tuition fees, monthly stipends, book and transportation allowances. She added that the qualifiers will receive a notice of scholarship award from DOST-SEI or the DOST Regional Offices stating the date of orientation and contract signing.

Each qualifier is required to report to the designated venue with a parent/guardian and to bring the following documents: accompanying parent/guardian's 2005 residence certificate, documentary stamp and notarization fee. A legal guardian is required to present his/her affidavit of guardianship.

Undergraduate scholarship programs in science and technology are administered and implemented yearly by the DOST-SEI as its contribution to developing a pool of human resources who will take active participation and leadership roles in carrying out S&T activities in the country. Currently, there are 9,333 beneficiaries of the RA 7687 Scholarship Program, while 789 are being supported under the Merit Scholarship Program.

The following are the qualifiers of the 2005 S&T Scholarships (also available online at www.sei.dost.gov.ph):

2005 DOST-SEI MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM QUALIFIERS

ABALON, BRYAN RAINER LEDDA
ABRIL, SHEILA ELEONOR TOLENTINO
ACEBEDO, SHEILA MARIE RESULTAY
ADVENTO, MARK TIMOTHY DELA RAMA
AGUILAR, DONNA CRUZ
AGUILOS, ABBY JAN DIONGSON
AGUSTIN, ALGENE GUINTO
AGUSTIN, JAN REYNOLD MIGUEL
ALCANTARA, RUTHER APIGO
ALFABETO, ACE ROBERT BAÑAS
ALFANTE, KIRK MATTHEW VILLACORTA
ALFONSO, ANGELO CECILIO
ALMERIA, KENNETH CHARLES TIOZON
ALO, GINO SIMON SAN JUAN
ALVAREZ, KRIS GERARD RAMISCAL
ANG, JELAINE ANGELICA RUBIO
ANGELES, ARLOU KRISTINA JIONGCO
ANGULUAN, ELOISE PALABAY
ANICAL, MOANNA BARCELONA
ARANETA, MELZAR CUA
ARBAS, ANDREI CHRISTOPHER GALAPON
ARCAYA, APRIL JOY CLOMA
AREVALO, SILVER FRANZ PEPITO
ARQUIZA, MYCHA RAMADHA QUILING
ARRIOLA, CLARO III ANGELES
AVILA, PATRICIA MARIE BALILI
AZUR, AILEEN JOY MENDOZA
BACALSO, TEOFILO MARI CONCEPCION
BACONGA, HAZEL SANCHEZ
BACUNGAN, FROILAN ANTONIO CARPIO
BADIDLES, IRIS SOLEIL PEREZ
BAGARINAO, CARL EMILIO UY
BALANCIO, MANUEL JOHNSON III INALDO
BALIONG, ASHLEY SUMALINOG
BALUYOT, STEIN ALEC CRUZ
BANATAO, JULIE ANN MASIRAG
BANCUD, KEVIN DELFIN
BARNACHEA, DOMINIC MORAL
BATTAD, ANDREA KRISTINE SILVESTRE
BAUTISTA, ANGEL VII TUGADE
BAUTISTA, ERIKA NICOLAS
BAYAG, MARK ALVIN CASTELLANO
BELARMINO, NOVIE JANE LOPEZ
BELBES, JET LAWRENCE MANZANILLA
BELTRAN, EPHRAIM JOY BINAYUG
BERNABE, MELANIE ERNEST HERNANDEZ
BERNARDO, MOSES BENJAMIN TEODORO
BERTULFO, JEAN PAULA BATICOLON
BITANG, JULIUS CEASAR GABASA
BOGNOT, PRADO ARTURO NAVARRO
BOLLOZOS, LUCILLE TAGLE
BORDA, ARIANNE BELANDRES
BORDEN, HONEY ROSE NAPARAN
BORJA, ADRIAN DOMINGUEZ
BRAGAIS, LUISA CARMELA GOYENA
BRIONES, NINA MAELIN MONILLA
BUÑO, LUIS III CALINGASAN
BUSTALINIO, KATHERINE TABILI
BUYCO, RAM KATALBAS
CABALQUINTO, ALVIN ANGELO CAMBRONERO
CABATO, NEIL SALVADOR DECATORIA
CABRERA, CARESSA MAE MILLANAR
CACERES, RIZZA DAPHET ESPINOSA
CADABUNA, MARK ANTHONY BUAN
CALANG, CARYL VIN BARATAS
CALIMAG, LOWIE BALDOZA
CALUGCUG, CARINA CASSANDRA LABIO
CANG, SANTI REX GAÑA
CANTUBA, RAFAEL RENO SUIZA
CAPULONG, MARIZ GUEVARRA
CAPUNO, MARLON ADANAN
CARPIO, JANN MICHAEL SARIGUMBA
CARRASCO, DEXTER RYAN CAÑARES
CASTELLANO, RAPHAEL ANGIELO DIANGSON
CASTRO, JOEMED MANALILI
CATALIG, MIGUEL ANTONIO PARAFINA
CAYETANO, CHERINER MORAL
CELLONA, GENESIS DIMAKILING
CHAVEZ, JENNIFER CARMI SEBASTIAN
CHICO, NIKKI ROSE MALLARI
CHUA, CASSANDRA JOYCE LI
CIELO, PATRICIA MAE CANJA
CLARACAY, SANBERTH ROSIMA
CLEMENTE, LAURA MAY ANTOINETTE DELA PAZ
CO, MICHAEL LAWRENZ FERRERAS
COMANDANTE, JOAN KARLA DELA PENA
CONCEPCION, FRED ALLISON UY
CONSTANTINO, JOHN MICHAEL GONZALES
CORDOVA, JUSTIN ALICK MANAPAT
CORNILLA, JOHN MARK TIMOTEO
CORPUZ, ISOBEL HERRAS
CORREOS, FRANCIS DAREN ONG
CORTEZO, JANA GRACE MATULIN
CRESINO, RIZNEL CREENCIA
CRISOLOGO, IRENE ANDRES
CRISPO, JASON RAY IBANEZ
CRUZ, DAVID GENESIS GENIZA
CRUZ, WADESSA IG-IG
CUA, JASTON ADRIEL LIM
CUEVAS, MIKKI VILLONES
CUNANAN, ANTHONY HERNANDEZ
DALAFU, MARIA DIVINA AGUSTIN
DAMASCO, JOSEPH RAY CLARENCE GALIT
DAQUIL, MAY RACHELLE DIZON
DE CASTRO, MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ
DE CASTRO, ROMULUS MIGUEL LATIZA
DE DIOS, CHRISTIAN FELIZARDO
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DE LEON, DANIEL LUIGI GERIO
DE LEON, MARK JEROME BRAVO
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DE VILLA, CARLOS EUGENIO BORJA
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DECIERDO, PECIER PAUL CARPENA
DEINLA, REGINALD ELI ATIENZA
DELA CRUZ, GEMFRIEL ANGELES
DELA CRUZ, KIEN YLYN VALDEMORO
DELA PAZ, GLORY GIFT TIAMSING
DELOS REYES, RAYNARD REYES
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DOMONDON, ALECCO GILBERTI AZCARRAGA
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EBARLE, ENRIQUE NOEL MENDOZA
ELOJA, RENFRED PACALDO
EMBING, ALECXANDER CEDRIC STEPHEN KJELL JOSE
EMPIZO, MELVIN JOHN FERNANDEZ
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FLORES, ANNA VICTORIA REYES
FLORES, RONILO JOSE DANILA
FLORO, GERALDINE CLAIRE OBSEQUIO
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GANZO, BRIAN ADA
GEPILANO, KLARISSE REALUYO
GOCE, RICHMOND PAUL ENRIQUEZ
GONZAGA, LEAN ROBERT ARIPIO
GONZALES, JONATHAN SANTOS
GONZALES, SHEEN PATRICK ALAMIL
GONZALES, SILVER JUNE BARIQUIT
GUBANTES, GENESA AMIT
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GUINTO, RAMON LORENZO LUIS ROSA
GUIYAB, JIM LERRY CRUZ
GUY-UYCO, CHASTINE GRACE SEQUITO
HAGAD, JUAN LORENZO MUTIA
HALABASO, HELEN JOYCE DIFUNTORUM
HAYAKAWA, YUZURU ABANTO
HILADO, ANTON BENETUA
HILOMEN, AARON TOTAÑES
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IBABAO, MARLON JOSE PUA
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KANGLEON, EBONY REYES
KO, ERIC DE JOYA
LACASANDILE, LOUEL LASTIMOZA
LANGOEY, JEREMIAH LIQUIDO
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LESIGUES, LENVIC ELICER RIÑOS
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LIM, TRISTAN OGOY
LIMA, FEDI MARIE CELIZ
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LUCY, HARVEY BAYANI
LUMONGSOD, PIO IAN SAGARINO
LUMPAS, IAN LLOYD RUIZ
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MANSO, ANA CHRISTABEL JIMENEZ
MANUALES, PAUL ANDREW LOPEZ
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MASALUNGA, MARVIN CESA
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MATEO, MIGUEL CARLOS LIWAG
MAYUYU, PAUL WILLIAM SEXON
MEDINA, KEONE KARL APUADA
MENGOTE, DIXI MAE PEREZ
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NEO, ANDREW CAPUA
NEPOMUCENO, MARIA CAPRISSE AZUCENA
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NIRZA, MAY CABUEÑAS
NUESTRO, JAN ANGELU VALERA
NUYDA, JEROME BALLON
OCAMPO, ELRASEC BESANA
OCAMPO, JUAN MIGUEL RAMOS
OCAY, JEYSON MONTA
ODEVILAS, GLO ANN SAMSON
ODICTA, FRED CARLO GRAGEDA
ORTEGA, MA. PAULA RHOVE RIVERA
ORTIZ, NINA CORISSA LU
PABLO, JUAN LORENZO BENJAMIN
PACLIBAR, RONNELLEE GARCIA
PADAO, IBANI CARREON
PADASAS, LEO ANGELO AMBAY
PAGKALINAWAN, ARNIE REQUINTO
PAGUIGAN, ANGEL III CUREG
PAGUIO, CZARINA ANGELICA NARVASA
PALMA, JON ARLEY REATIRAZA
PANGANIBAN, EARL ANGELO BOHOLST
PARAGUYA, KYNNE RAE PEREZ
PASCUAL, ARCHER BUNAG
PASCUAL, MICHAEL JOMN ANGELES
PATINO, JUAN BERNARDO CARANDANG
PEDROSO, ANGELA KRISTA VALMORIA
PEÑAMORA, JOYCE MAIZA GUCILATAR
PERALES, GLYNNIS GEM DOHINOG
PEREZ, MARCOS III OVIEDO
PEREZ, RAINIER CARLO SAMONTE
PEREZ, WILLIAM MACALALAD
PETILOS, GAYE MONTECILLO
PINEDA, MARK ELIZIER TALAVERA
PINEDA, RALPH RAINIEL ALDECOA
PINO, GILSON YCONG
PIZARRO, BARNE IMMANUEL ACOSTA
PORNILLOS, MA. CRISTINA DAYUPAY
POTICANO, JANE BERNADETTE MUTIA
PUBLICO, RENEE ATHINA SERRANO
PUNONGBAYAN, JAN CARLO BORRUEL
PUNZALAN, RAY ANNE GUEVARRA
PURISIMA, MIGUEL CARLO LICUP
QUIAT, JOAN LESLIE ACOSTA
RAMIREZ, CALEB JOSHUA REPALA
RAMIREZ, GERALDINE ESTHER SARMIENTO
RAMOS, DARYL HOMER MONTEMAYOR
RAMOS, KATRINA AQUINO
RAMOS, NEVIN JORRELL ROLDAN
RAMOSO, PATRICK DELA PAZ
REDECIO, JOHN KIM STA. CRUZ
REDOBLE, ROGELIO BENJAMIN JULIANO
REDUBLA, TRINI MAINE SOLIDAD
REFORMA, GERALD PERALTA
REGALADO, JOSEPH JUSTIN HIPOLITO
REINOSO, ERIC JOHN BARON
REVEREZA, RIZZA REPUYAN
REYES, DARL PEACH THOUSAND ANTIPORTA
REYES, JESSE LANCE LAGMAN
REYES, JOSUE ROBERTSON SAMONTE
REYES, JUSTINE JEREMIAH CORTES
REYES, ROANA BIANCA CO
RICARTE, JUAN DE JESUS
ROBERTO, GENEROSO DELOS REYES
RODRIGUEZ, ANA KATHERINA PACOLOR
RODRIGUEZ, JADE PRESTO
ROMERO, VICTOR II MILITANTE
ROQUE, MARY GRACE ANNE REYES
ROSALES, NIKKI CARLA LANDRITO
ROSETE, MARGARET BAUTISTA
ROTAP, JOHN PAUL REYES
SAGNIP, JELON SAN GIL
SALANIO, KENABRYL ELEAZAR SALES
SALAO, ROMINIC CABURNAY
SALAZAR, JAMES BRIAN ESTRELLES
SALAZAR, JOSEPH VIRGIL RAZ
SALCES, CARY YRVIN JANDAYAN
SALONGA, JOSEPH HENRY MOLENIO
SALVADOR, ALVIN AUSTRIA
SAN LUIS, KARL IVAN MACALE
SANICO, ANDRUEN ENDRIANO
SANTIAGO, MELYSSA ANTOINETTE ELIZAGA
SANTOS, ANGELO ARSENIO DE GUZMAN
SANTOS, BRIAN SANTIAGO
SANTOS, DARYLL RIMANDO
SANTOS, DIANNE YACO
SANTOS, ERVIN SANTOS
SARMIENTO, ANGELA ALBANO
SEBASTIAN, THERESE ANTOINETTE LIEZL LIMOSO
SEGUI, JOSEPH JEEBEN RAMIREZ
SENGSON, PETER PAUL BASILIO
SIETERIALES, VENIE ROSE VILLADARES
SIMEON, IVAN FERNANDEZ
SISON, MIGUEL POLOTAN
SOGUILON, RYAN GLEN MONARES
SOLAJES, FRANCIS RAPHAEL TABAO
STA. ANA, DON ISAAC OZOA
SUMALDE, ADRIAN AUGUSTO MENDOZA
SY, EIAN CHRISTIAN ANGELES
TABERNILLA, DIANA DENISE MARGALLO
TACASTACAS, STEPHEN NEIL VALENCIA
TACBAD, MARIA ANA CANLAS
TAMBAGO, HYACINTH MAE GARRIDO
TAN, JAMES ANDREW LIM
TANG, ALVIN JOSEPH JAVIER
TANGARORANG, TERENZ SCOUT BULACAN
TAPIT, RENE TIMOTHY MONSALE
TE, MARIE FEBRA CLAIRE ETCUBAÑAS
TEJARES, REY CARLO BARREDO
TENSUAN, MARTIN JAMES SANTO TOMAS
TERMULO, BRIGETTE ELICE SANCHEZ
TESTA, MARIBEL CABANTOG
TIANCO, EARL DAVID LORENZANA
TOBIAS, CHRISTIAN CONSTANTINE VILLA DIEGO
TOLIBAS, ALEXIS JEROME MARTINEZ
TONGCO, ANDREA MARIE PALABRICA
TORRES, GODFREY JOSEF RAYMUNDO
TRINIDAD, AILEE MAE MAQUILING
TRONO, THEISS THELLA CHAVEZ
TUAZON, ALEJANDRO JOSE ANGELES
ULTRA, JOHN DIANA
UY, FELIX MAVERICK JR. RUBILLAR
UY, JOHANNIE KEITH YAO
UY, RENZ JANSSEN MIRANO
UYBOCO, JOSHUA TAY
VALDEZ, OLIVE ANN JENNIFER TULLO
VALDEZ, ROZELLE CORDERO
VALLE, PAUL JUREY VARGAS
VASQUEZ, NICOLO ANDRO RAPAL
VERGARA, JANNO ENCINARES
VILLAFLORES, JUNE REY ALONSO
VILLANUEVA, ANDEONETTE ABILA
VILLAR, EDGAR JOSEPH DELA REA
WAGA, ANGELI LOREN BERNALES
YABUT, DAN ALFONSO OSTOY
YANOS, MARK GABRIEL BERNABE
YAZON, LOUIE FRANCISCUS SAN AGUSTIN
YBAÑEZ, QUINCY ESTOPIN
YGNACIO, MICHAEL ANTHONY VALLECERA
ZARA, MARK JOSEPH SEBASTIAN

2005 RA 7687 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM QUALIFIERS BY PROVINCE

ABRA
BEGUAS, RICKYLYN BLASE

AGUSAN DEL NORTE
BAGTILAY, BLESSIL BETSY NEGRE
BUTAD, APRIL LENE VISMANOS
COLADES, JAMES ILAGAN
CUBILLA, RYAN TAGUMASI
CUPIN, MARIFE BOOC
JIMENEZ, ROXAN GALOPE
LANGANLANGAN, MC HAROLD DAHUNOG
MALBUESO, RONIEREX BARTIANA
MAYUGA, JHONREY MERISCO
OCITE, VIVENCIO III DADOLE
PACENO, KENNETH EDWARD BIBAT
PALEN, VERA MONETTE POLON
PALER, SARAH JANE ALILAY
REVECHO, MAY SUAL
YUSON, SARAH JANE CALO

AGUSAN DEL SUR
BAYON, JEANA MARIE PAGLINAWAN
CAMBO, CLINT OWEN TAN
CANO, WENDELL DORMIENDO
LIM, PHILIP LABITE
PAZA, GIDEON JOHN NOYNAY
PEPUGAL, NESEL CARL TURAL
SUAYBAGUIO, MARY CHERUBIN TANDAYAG

AKLAN
BONGABONG, EDISON JR. DIMAANO
CIPRIANO, JONA MAE DAGOHOY
ESTRADA, MARANATHA BRAGADO
FAMISARAN, CRIS TUBANG
FRANCISCO, DINA ROSE ILINON
IBARDOLAZA, APRILLE JOIE IGUINA
IGNACIO, MERLY SUNOG
ISAGAN, HUGH TZADDI ONG
NAVARRA, FAYE DEANNE BILUGAN
NG, JENNELYN PRADO
REAMBONANZA, CHARLES PREACH BARROS
ROME, ROBERT JULIAN FAMIS
TORIANO, XIAN PROTACIO
TORRES, MARVIN CAHILIG

ALBAY
ABRIGO, ANNIE GRACE BORCELIS
ALMEDA, AL FRANCIS SALEM
ARINGO, JOHN CARLO MUYNA
AYTONA, GRACE LOMIBAO
BALASTA, MARY-CRIS BORAL
BANGA, MARIE JASMIN ANTONETTE CINCO
BANGA, MARY JEAN IGNACIO
BANTON, RALPH BELDAD
BARATILLA, JOWEN MARTILLAN
BAYABAN, KATRINA MARBELLA
BAÑAL, JEROME BARAQUIEL
BELLO, VANCE SYMOUR SORIA
BENITEZ, KATHERINE BAYNA
BODINO, DIANA CRISMA JOIE OLIVA
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BORDONADA, FRANCIS BELGICA
BORJA, SHARLYN BASE
BOÑGOL, JHOANNE PEDRES
BUBAN, JARMON WHAIM BARCEBAL
BUENO, RIGOR II BIRON
CAMBA, DAVIELYN AMOR
CANTES, ROCHEL ANN MORES
CAO, MA. TERESA BINAMIRA
CIMANES, DARYL JOSE III REALUBIT
DE LA TORRE, AL AGASSIZ DIESTA
DELA CRUZ, MA. IVY SABLAON
ENDRANO, KATHLEEN RAÑADA
FADRI, ARTEMIO HERNANDEZ
FEDEREZ, MA. KRISTINA ONRUBIA
GONZAGA, VANESSA JASMIN RODRIGUEZ
IBARRA, MARK GERALD LUNAS
LOCSIN, WILSON BASQUIÑEZ
LUDOVICE, MARY ANN BERANO
MACABEO, IVAN RHETT VILLACAMPA
MACEDA, SARAH JANE MACASINAG
MANRIQUE, OWEN JOVETH COSME
MIDUA, MARILYN BONGAYAN
MORTA, CRESTIAN NEBREJA
NANTEZA, CLYDE REBUA
NOBLEZA, LENIE NERBES
OSABEL, EARL DAN OBENITA
PEREZ, KEVIN HANSEL DIAZ
PEÑAFIEL, IAN CHRISTIAN TIMOG
PEÑARUBIA, RUBY ANN REFERMOSO
REALOZA, APRIL BUHAT
REBUSQUILLO, MARK LESTER PARPARAN
RELENTE, CHRISTOFFER EDD NIDUA
REOLO, PRAXIDES GUEVARRA
REYELAR, KARL SIMON AMARANTO
RIVERO, PAULA MARIE DASALLA
SALEM, GIELENNY MAQUINIANA
SECOPITO, MYRA GRACE IMPROSO
SINSON, MELVIN PENILLA
VIRREY, KENNETH GAIL LIPNICA

ANTIQUE
ARNAIZ, RENAN MALUNES
ARROJO, SJANDRA MAE CORPES
BINAS, DIENELLE CHARM JUANICO
ESTANOL, JOHN VEY NEMIS
EUGENIO, MARCELITA NOLLEDO
FELICANO, WINDHEL CALUBIRAN
GESTOSO, ROMMEL JAN APOSTOL
GRIJALDO, FEB STEPHEN ZULUETA
OSTAN, JERSON LLOYD BANGCAYA
PATENO, DANILO JR. CASTEL
SUAREZ, EMMANUEL JR. YUTE
TADI, ARJAY LONTAC
TAPIC, CHRISTIAN OPERIANO
TAYONA, HAROLD JOHN GAMUYAO
VALERA, JESSEBEL PATCHICOY

APAYAO
REYES, GLAISA DAMES

AURORA
DASALLA, BERNADETTE VILLEGAS
LAPADA, LOYD ROMEL MORAL
LAURENCIO, JOEL II CALULOT
NABOR, EVA CARRIZA ANDAL
TRESVALLES, EMMANUEL PUNO

BASILAN
ANDAIN, JACOB JOHN CASES
QUICHO, JOANNA MARIE LOPIBA
TARRO, REA LEPASANA
TERCIO, VANESSA FAITH TILLO

BATAAN
CANLAS, ABYGALE VILLAFUERTE
CAPISTRANO, CARLO PEREZ
FLORES, SHEILA EURHANE LUCZON
REGALADO, RIGOR GARCIA
REYES, FAR-JAY SULIT
SAMSON, ROSALIE MARCELO
VITUG, JAZIEL DELA ROSA

BATANGAS
AGNO, CLAUDINE FAYE HOSMILLO
ALCALA, JERIC SIA
ARANO, JOANA CRISTY ADAYA
BALINADO, MARY GRACE UMALI
BASIT, RAYMOND MARANAN
CABRERA, MARK PATRICK BUENO
CASABUENA, RENZ GAHOL
CRISALDO, JAN MICHAEL ARAÑO
DE CASTRO, APRILLE MENDOZA
DICTADO, ADRIAN CALALO
DIMALIBOT, VERONICA GONDA
DULCE, ELVIN DIGNO
ESPLANA, SARRAH SHAYNE RECINTO
EVANGELISTA, JUAN BERNARDO RAMOS
FLORES, MARITESS DALITA
GABRIEL, MARIE KRIS CARAAN
GARCIA, JENELYN LONTOC
JAURIGUE, CLEOFE LARA
JAVIER, ALVIN LISONDRA
LASCANO, REIFREY ADRIANO
LORENZO, JOHN PAUL DEJAN
MACAPUNO, ARDEN JERIC SILVA
MALABANAN, VLADIMIR AUSTRIA
MANALO, CINDY ZARA
MARASIGAN, RICHMOND MAR GARCIA
MENDOZA, BRYAN ALLAIN TALAIN
NATANAUAN, ARVIN AGOJO
NGOHO, LOUIE VINCENT ATIENZA
PANALANGIN, JEFFREY CULTURA
PECANA, MARK REANO
PENALOSA, JAN ANGELO MAZAREDO
PEREZ, GERLI MAE PUNZALAN
PEREZ, SHYRR BARTE
REGIMEN, ARON LESSLER QUILAO
REYES, PAMELA JANE DALANGIN
RONQUILLO, GLEN OSORIO
SANGALANG, GAZELLE BOLINA
SANIANO, MYRENE BERNADETTE NOLLA
SANVICTORES, ROY BRIAN CLEOFE
SOCORRO, MA. RACHELLE ANN BAUTISTA
SULIT, PRINCESS ANN CAYMO
SUNGA, JOHN ELDRICK COMETA
UNGRIA, KRISTINE ARA ALCARPIO
VALENCIA, JEV ALCANTARA
VELASCO, VON RYAN HERMOSA
VILLALOBOS, BRYAN DIMAANO
ZAPATA, ALVIN PAGLICAUAN

BENGUET
AQUINO, CLIFFORD JR. KOLLIN
AQUINO, LLANA RAE DAMAGUEN
BISCO, PHOEBE KATE QUINTIN
BUGNE, JOEL PUMIHIC
CAMPOS, GIOVANI GRINGO RILLORAZA
CELOY, MAY MATEO
CHALOPING, MILTON JR. COBSILEN
DANIEL, RAPUNZEL PAGANA
DELA CRUZ, KRISTINA ILARDE
DEPALOG, TRACY JO OCDEN
FONTANOZ, BERNADETTE ZABALA
LOPEZ, HAROLD DE VERA
MARTIN, ROGER JR. TUANEN
MUNCADA, STEFFI FLOR LAGUITAN
PERALTA, SALVADOR JR. BAUTISTA
POYAOAN, MARIA DINA VIRAY
SAMOLE, TIMOTHY CASTILLO
VICENTE, MARCIAL PAULINO

BILIRAN
SALLOMAN, CHARISSA MERIOLES
VACIO, JAPHET LABJATA

BOHOL
ABINIDO, JON FRITZ AMOY
APARICIO, MA. JECCA DUALLO
ASOY, FREECY TINAJA
BARBARONA, RONA FELISILDA
BELTRAN, JEAN BUTIHEN
BERNEL, NOEL SAMANTE
BUENA, HAZEL SAPALO
CASIA, AILEEN POLINAR
DELA PENA, JERWIN CORPUS
DELA PENA, NEIL EDWARD BERSABAL
DOBLAS, REYLIETO MASCARINAS
DULIGUEZ, JERICK IAN REQUIRON
ESCLAMADO, ISABEL SANDIGAN
ESQUILLA, VIRGILIO JR. AYUBAN
GANUB, STANLEY RUSSELL MALARAN
LADEZA, MA. CECILIA BOLIGAO
LAMOSTE, JUNRIE CAGATIN
LAURDEN, NELSON POLINAR
LIBOT, KENNETH ALBERT RACHO
MELLOMIDA, RONELO PETAGARA
MONTON, JAKE ROSALINDA
PEQUIT, LITO DAYOC
RANISES, FRANCIS BERDERA
SALAUM, MARVY ANN ATON
SENARILLOS, JEAN-PHE CURAY
SUMAYLO, NOEL BONJE
VISTAL, RONEL REMULTA

BUKIDNON
ARELLANO, GABRIELLE MAE PULOT
DALMACIO, ROSE ANN GONZALES
DANLAG, QUEENY ELIZA MOFAR
GODMALIN, MUJETTE GUITGUITEN
HAGUINGAN, KRISTOFFER JUN BALTAZAR
LIM, GENE PAUL VALDERRAMA
MAGBOJOS, MARIDEL CONTI
PRANTILLA, SHENNA GRACE DAQUILANEA
RAAKIN, JOSEPH REVELO
SEMBRANO, CECILLE ACERO
SEPE, WAMMA JOY ANO-OS
SUAZO, KIALL FRANCIS GANDILAN
TAGUD, JAPPETH BEN DABLO
TINAJA, RANDY TAPERLA
TURAJA, MARLON CENABRE
VILLAZORDA, CHARITY DAWN LEYSON
ZACAL, CASSANDRA MARIE MENCEDE

BULACAN
ALCARAZ, JUSTINE SANTOS
AQUINO, RODEL ABED SANTOS
BALBIRAN, MARK JOSEPH ENDITA
CABRAL, MICHAEL ANGELO PANGILINAN
CARILLO, RENZ ROE SANTIAGO
CRUZ, CASELYN VALDERAMA
DAMIAN, JOHNSON CABIGAO
DANTES, BRYAN ALLAN STA. ROSA
DE GUZMAN, KENNETH ROBERT CUANICO
DIZON, JOHN REY CABALLERO
FLORES, MISAEL JR. ROMARATE
FRANCISCO, RAQUEL RAIZA TUBAT
GARCIA, GARY PUNONGBAYAN
GARCIA, JHERLYN DAGUPION
HERNANDEZ, MARIE ARLYNETTE ONATIS
ILAN, MA. DORINA MACALINAO
JOAQUIN, CHRISTOPHER LIZANO
LEE, MARK PHILIP BARRON
LISAY, LESLIE KIMBERLY CANZANA
MACAPAGAL, DENNIS DONATO
MANAHAN, MA. MONICA CRUZ
MANALASTAS, MARK CONSTANTINO
OFRACIO, OMAR DAVID CALARA
REGALADO, ANGELO MARI SERDONE
REYES, ROLANDO. JR. SAPLALA
SANTOS, NINO MAR PACHECO
SISON, JEROME GABRIEL
TARALA, BENEDICT CABANATAN
VICENTE, CRIS ZALDY NAVAL
VILLAFUERTE, NATHALIE JEAN MENDOZA
VILLANGCA, MARK JAYSON MORELLA

CAGAYAN
BASSIG, XYZA BINUYA
BUSLIG, WINCHELLE SHAYNE ANGELES
CACATIAN, JOHN DENVER BERNARDINO
COLUMNA, KEZIAH ANNE BUCANEG
DANGA, RUSELLE CASTRO
DE GUZMAN, LORETA OPRECIO
LAMUD, JACINTO TUNGCUL
NONATO, MA. FAYE ORTEZA
PADUA, DON GERALD DANAO
PEDRALVEZ, ARIANE ABAD
UDARBE, PHILIP UDASCO

CAMARINES NORTE
ABRIOL, MARCEL DAVE SAMONTE
ALVAREZ, JOSEPH REYMOND ALDEZA
ANTONIO, MARIA GLAIZA GARFIN
ATIENZA, IRISH PARRO
BALANE, JUN ELWENE BARBIN
BAÑADERA, ISMAEL ESPIRITU
CABANELA, KAREN GLAZE MACARASIG
CAMINO, MARK ANTHONY GUTIERREZ
CAÑAS, ROSALYN MAE SULLEZA
CUSTODIO, BENETTE PANOL
ECO, JEFFERSON ALBO
GARCES, MARNEL DE VELEZ
ILUSTRE, DOTTY GRACE CADA
MAGO, IVAN JEFFREY SANTOS
MAGO, KRYSTALYN CANDY CERENO
MORALES, YODEL II SO
NON, MAXELL REY BAÑARES
PALMERO, ABEGAIL SANDOVAL
PARENA, ARJAY GEORGE PAJARILLO
SAN JUAN, CYNTHIA SAGUIT
SANCHEZ, MARIDEN GUTIERREZ
VALEROS, HAYDILYN VILLAFRANCA
VEDAD, JESSADEL DEL ROSARIO
VILLALUNA, RONA PARENA
VISITATION, CARL ALLAN BALANE

CAMARINES SUR
ABOGA, MARK CRIS BRILA
ACASIO, MICHAEL DE VOTEZBO
ALFORTE, JONATHAN RAY ALPARAN
ASCURA, BENCY BARRION
BALONZO, DENNIS OLIVA
BARCE, CRISTOPHER ONES
BENOSA, RAIZSA-DAPHNE ABORDO
BERNAL, MARLON JOSEPH CUADRANTE
BUÑI, ROMMEL ABRERA
CACERES, ROLAND SAMSON
CASTRO, PRINCESS LABILLES
CERNITCHEZ, JANE SIODINA
COMPLIDO, FELIX ANGELO BUBAN
DAVID, IVAN NOE CADO
DEMATERA, KRISTIAN CAMARA
ESPILOY, MARIA ESPHIE AÑONUEVO
FABRICANTE, FRANKLIN BENDIJO
GALEMBA, CHRISTIAN GIL RESAYAGA
IPO, SHEENA MARIE NACARIO
MACALLA, CYNTHIA BORNALES
MAGISTRADO, ERIC OLIVARES
MALENIZA, JOSELITO MANDIGMA
MARCIAL, MYLA CONDE
MARTINEZ, ACE CARLO FORNALIIZA
MARTINEZ, JOSHUA CAPOBRIAN
MESIA, JEAVONS PABLO CORRAL
NIEBRES, MAY FENIS
OBIAS, EVAN MAY BARTOLAY
OPIANA, MARICON CULAWAY
PORLANTE, AARON JAMES DOMINGO
PRIVALDOS, HERMES ANTHONY GUINTO
REDULLA, RONRON CORRE
REYES, RIA MATUTINA
ROMERO, MAVREEN ANNE ESCOBER
SANTOS, BASIL JAMES SALVILLA
SERRANO, FEMARI BALLECER
TAGOMATA, KARL BABE GORNAL
TOGÑO, BERNADITTE GOROM
UY, PHILVEN SUENO
VALENCIA, MA. CRISTINA AMATA
VELA, JUDITH BAGASALA
VERONA, JOANNA JANIKA TALIBAY
YUKIM, MICHAEL JOSE ALARCON

CAPIZ
BORJA, FELMAR BECHAYDA
DONADO, JOHN ALBERT SOBREMISINA
FLAMIANO, PETER PAUL FOSCABLO
LAD, JENNY MHAR AGUDO

CATANDUANES
DE NAVA, MARK ANTHONY MARIN

CAVITE
ASAMA, ALMIRA LOTA
AVERILLA, ROMIR RODAS
BANARES, JONATHAN JAMES MUGOL
BERGULA, JANELLY CERADO
CARINO, MICHAEL LEONARD MUNDA
DALIPE, JOHN MICHAEL ZULUETA
DIAZ, DENICE JOYCE VIDAL
DRIZA, KEVIN GABRIEL
ESGUERRA, MARK ALVIN CASTRO
FRIAS, JOHN JOSEPH AMBA
GALVAN, MITCH IRENE KATE NGITNGIT
GIGANTONE, KENNETH HUGO
GREGORIO, JOHN CARLO MEDENILLA
HITORIAGA, HARRIS IAN LACABA
JAIME, FRANCES JEAN ALFARO
MANALO, MAZIE ANNE PUNZALAN
PEJI, CHARLES-JIMBO PALOMAR
POBLETE, MYRA RUTH SALES
RAMA, MICHELLE LHYN ALCOBER
SIDRA, ROMMICK IMPERIAL
SISON, LLOYD CYRUS TUGAHAN
VENTURA, KHRISTIE MICHELLE DE LEON
VIVAR, MARVIN MAGDANGAL

CEBU
ALCAREZ, FELIX III BIADNES
ALIGSAO, ARNULFO JR. ADLAWAN
ALIVIO, KRISTY MARIE MONTALBAN
APALE, ACE BRYNEL CARCUEVA
ARELLANO, JOED ALICAWAY
ATUTUBO, CARL MANILA CAYACAP
BAJENTING, LEOVY BOIE ABAYA
BALANO, MARY CRIS DEVILLERES
BARING, SHERILE LYN TANGARORANG
BECALDO, LYSAN PITOGO
BERANGEL, MICHAEL VINCENT JALLORES
BERDEN, APRIL FLORES
BOISER, MARK ANTHONY PADIN
BOROY, MARIE OTADOY
BOYLES, MIRASOL PARANTAR
BUSICO, EUGENE CALDINO
BUTAYA, VINCENT REMEDIO
CABRERA, EUNICE PILONES
CACANOG, KEEREN CLAIRE RAMOS
CAITOR, KEITH NOHBY PEPINO
CANLOM, JOHNEVER N.
CANSANCIO, ROJIE DARYLL CABONITA
CAPARIDA, MAE CANADA
CAPIN, AL RYAN ENRIQUEZ
CAPOY, MARLO BEJOC
CARUZ, RUEL BELAMIA
CATUBAY, JEMARCH VILAR
CHIN, HENO REY SANICO
COGAY, ETHEL LAURON
COGTAS, KRIS DANNIELLE ARDINES
CORBETA, MICHAEL MONTECILLO
CORONADO, EJ WILKES AMPALAYOHAN
CORTES, RODNEY VINAN
CUA, KUMAR ANINON
DABON, RICKY JOHN GEMARINO
DE GRACIA, JELLIE ALEGRADO
DEL CASTILLO, HELAMAN VIGILANCIA
DELIMA, CYRIL VELIGANIO
DIAZ, MARK NORWIN DAYON
DICHOS, JOSHUA NINO FRANCO
ELIGKONG, ADRIANNE GEORGE JUANGA
FIGUES, JAMES CUERPO
GELDORE, ISRAEL P.
GENIO, GERARDO EBRADO
GINGOYON, VENUS BAGUIO
GUALIZA, JOHN BRYLLE GABISAY
GULANE, EDWARD NIELS ORTALIZ
HOYLAR, RENEGENE FERRAS
JAEN, HAROLD VINCENT PEDROSA
JAGDON, DARWIN TINGA
JUDAYA, GERBIE RIVERA
JUMAO-AS, ALMERA CUTANG
JUMAPAO, ANTHONY GALA
KILAT, SHYNE AGAPAY
LARITA, AILYN GUMANID
LAY, JENNYLYN AMONCIO
LIMPANGUG, ARNIE SUMALINOG
MACASERO, AMOR DUBLIN
MADREDINOS, ANA FRANCES REBUCAS
MAGALE, LUPEY LAPINA
MALOLOY-ON, CHLOE DOOP
MANAYAGA, JERRY GAMBOA
MANGILA, LEO DARYL SABERON
MANGYAO, ELSA TAN
MANINTAN, JOSHUA PHILIP G.
MANTILLA, SHARIE LYN SIAREZ
MARABILLAS, MARLOU FUENTES
MARANGA, JED SORIANO
MATUS, RAMMEL LATAZA
MAYOL, ISRAEL PAQUIBOT
MIRANDA, ALQUINE RALPH SABORNAY
MODINA, BRYAN CARISOSA
MONTEJO, JOHN RAYMOND FLORES
MORAL, FIDELFO JR. CABASA
NACARIO, KAREN DELVO
NARANDAN, RICARDO AMAYA
NOLASCO, CLARK HARVEY DAMADAO
OLAYVAR, JULIUS CAESAR D.
OLVIDO, MICHELLE MAE JUGASAN
OPORTO, ROTSEN ANGELOU MONDARES
ORTEGA, DEBRAH FAJARDO
PABLE, LEALOU CABAHUG
PABLEO, NIEL WILFRED OMBOS
PACQUIAO, MARICOR LUCENO
PANINSORO, EUNICE DE LOS REYES
PARAGOSO, EVARIZ DEJORAS
PARANGAN, JOSEPH FRANCIS TENEFRANCIA
PARAS, NILO JUNN ABLAN
PARNONCILLON, ROBELL NAHID
PEKITPEKIT, JOEFFRY ESTANERO
POSTRANO, JEVY CALVO
PRESNILLO, KAY ANTONETTE GULANE
RAMIREZ, FLORENCE DELA CRUZ
REPAYO, JESSTONY DUHINO
REVALDE, JERVIS JADE I.
RIVADENERA, ALFIE PAJENTE
RIZADA, JUFNI CORTUNA
ROBLE, NEIL ROGER OMAMALIN
ROMANOS, RAMON VINCENT A.
ROSELLO, SHEENA JESSICA SANCHEZ
SABANDAL, GRAN GAPASIN
SANCHEZ, EDVER C.
SANDOVAL, HANNAH MARIE ALLOSADA
SANDROJO, DHIAN AREVALO
SATIERRA, CARLO RAY PONCE
SEMBLANTE, SIEGFRED PHILIP ORQUILLAS
SIMOY, EARL JAY DE LA CRUZ
SINDA, CHARISE PENAS
SINGSON, STEPHEN UGMAREZ
SO, MARIVIC TREMBOLO
SOON, IREY MAMATAD
SUMALINOG, CARLA MAE LIMPAG
SUN, JEAN RAGASAJO
SUPANGAN, JUNE GRACE BATOON
TAJANLANGIT, ED AUSTIN ABELLA
TALABOC, MICHELLE PERDEZ
TAMPUS, ROSE MAY PERELLANO
TELEBANGCO, MERIAM DELA CRUZ
TORINO, RAYMOND B.
TORREGOSA, RACHEL GONZAGA
TORREON, LOUIE JAY SABANA
TORRES, KENNETH KARL LIM
TRANGIA, JESSA MARIE DIVINAGRACIA
UBALDO, JAPHET PINO
VALDEHUEZA, VLADIMIR NAVARRO
VIBAR, JUNHREY AVES
VILLABER, JERAMAEL PRESBITERO
VILLARIN, NINO CARLU CABELIN
VILLAROSA, KRISALITA BARING
WASAWAS, CARMEL JOY RAPELLERO

COMPOSTELA VALLEY
CORTEZ, JOHN DAVID DULOS
LABENDIA, MHELMAR AVILA
LAWAGON, CHOSEL PEPITO
LIGUID, RITCHIE ALO
NUEVA ECIJA, KAREN MUGA
OCCENA, DARLEEN ALBERCA
PELANDAS, GEORIVIC QUIBRAR

DAVAO DEL NORTE
ABAY, KEIRSTINNE PUSOD
ANDADOR, NOELHYN MAE JOCSON
AUXILIO, IVO ANGELICO BONCALES
BUCANE, CHARITY SALCEDO
CARPENTERO, CATHY CAMIÑA
DELA CRUZ, JASPER NIKKI BARRETE
DELA PENA, MARIA JESSECA JAGANAS
EBAO, RANDY CABACUNGAN
EDIG, LOURDES ANGELIE OPEÑA
EVANGELIO, CHRISTINE ABRAO
MALVAS, JOANNA GRACE NAMANG
MANOOS, CARL CHRIS CABRERA
PELISAN, JESSIE JAMES CIFRA
POLINAR, JESSE NAVARRO
SUN, NONY SARVIDA
TEREC, ORLIE ANTHONY ALESING
TICALA, RICHARD APROSTA
TIEMPO, MARK JOHN APAON
VENUS, STEPHEN JAN DE RAMOS

To be continued tomorrow..

Groups unite to fight coal plants in whole of Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Environmental advocates in the Visayas have launched a campaign against coal-fired plants in the region and push for the tapping of renewable sources of energy.

Around 50 representatives of non-government organizations and environmental groups from Negros Occidental, Panay, Cebu, Samar and Leyte vowed to "vigorously" oppose the entry of the plants because of perceived environmental and health hazards.

The groups, which call themselves the Visayas for Renewable Energy (V-Free), questioned government forecasts, projecting a power supply deficit by 2007.

The projected deficit has been the basis of energy and other government officials for endorsing coal-plant projects.

"We cannot continue to suffer from the consequences of the government's flawed forecasting," V-Free said in manifesto issued on Tuesday at the end of a two-day conference at the Residence Hotel here.

The groups claimed that the putting up of coal-fired plants in the Visayas is unnecessary because geothermal plants in Leyte, which provides most of the supply of the Visayas power grid, is even exporting supply to Luzon.

Quoting data from the Department of Energy, Melvin Purzuelo of the Responsible Ilonggos for Sustainable Energy (Rise) said the Leyte plants have a dependable capacity of 639 megawatts.

He said the peak demand of Leyte and Samar is only 181 mw, leaving a surplus of 458 mw. Of the surplus, 94 mw is exported to the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid and 364 mw to Luzon.

"What is the logic of prescribing dirty coal projects for the Visayas when close to 400 mw of our clean geothermal power from Leyte is being exported to Luzon which has a 4,358 mw surplus?" the groups said in their manifesto.

They said that if more supply is required, the government should tap projects that will use at least 3,882 mw of untapped supply of renewable energy in the Visayas. These include geothermal, wind, bagasse and small hydro-powered plants.

Energy officials and proponents of the projects have claimed that coal plants are the most viable sources of additional power supply in the region because of the lack of sources of renewable energy.

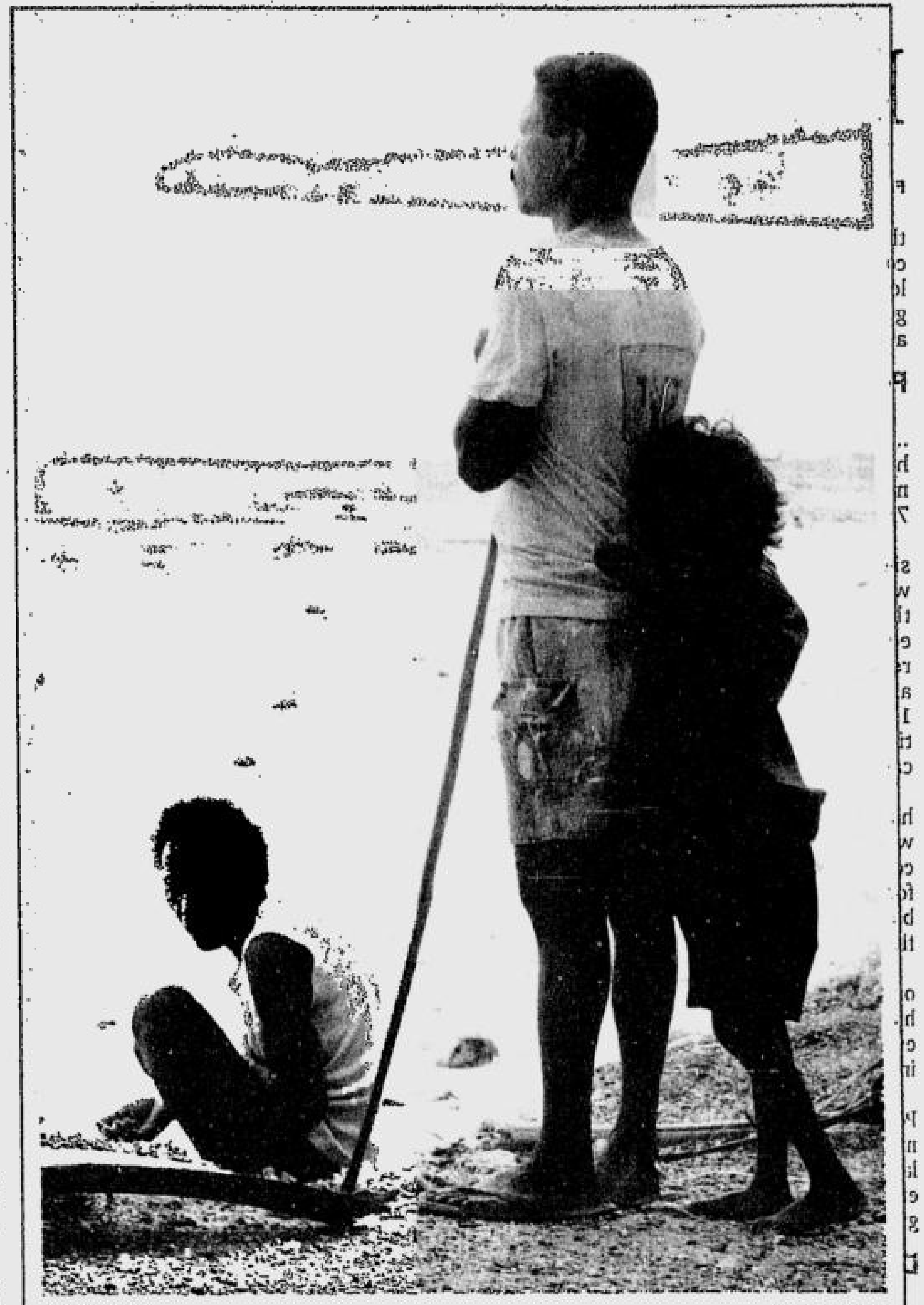
Few investors are also interested to invest in projects to tap renewable sources of energy, according to the officials.

Independent power producers like Mirant and the Korean Electric Power Co. (Kepco) have assured the safety of the plants to the environment and human health.

They said the use of the Circulating Fluidized-Bed Combustion technology significantly reduces emission from the coal-fired plants.

Opponents of the coal plants will focus their campaign on coal plant projects in Cebu and Iloilo.

Mirant Global is proposing to put up a 100-mw plant in Barotac Viejo town in Iloilo while DMCI also plans to put a similar plant in Concepcion town.



DRIVEN MITCH MAURICIO

Three generations of the Ati community contemplate their future on the shores of Boracay in an area of the famed resort hidden from the commercialized beach. The tribe faces dislocation and transfer to an 80-hectare tourism village.

ROUNDUP

NPA killed in clash

SORSOGON CITY—A suspected New People's Army member was killed in an encounter Monday with government troops from the 2nd Infantry Battalion in Sitio Melabigan, Barangay Cariedo, Irosin, Sorsogon. Supt. Edgardo Chavez, head of the Intelligence Division of the Sorsogon Provincial Police Office, identified the slain rebel as Arnel del Prado, 22, of Barangay Beguin, Bulan, Sorsogon. Col. Arsenio Arugay, 901st Infantry Battalion commanding officer based in Barangay Villahermosa in Daraga, Albay, said his men were on patrol when they encountered 12 NPA rebels allegedly extorting from villagers. The rebels withdrew to a forested area, leaving behind their dead comrade. *Michael Jaucian and Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Durano works on airstrips

BACOLOD CITY—Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano is negotiating for the opening of private airstrips in southern Negros to boost tourism in the area, tourism director for Western Visayas Edwin Trompeta said. Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon and Vice Gov. Isidro Zayco earlier asked Durano to help convince Maricalum Mining Corp. in Sipalay City and the Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines in Basay, Negros Oriental to open up their abandoned runways to small aircraft that will bring in tourists to dive areas and beaches in the south. "Durano has asked me for the details on the two abandoned airstrips so he can work on arrangements for their use to draw tourists from places like Cebu, Boracay and Palawan to maximize the use of resorts in Sipalay," Trompeta said. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Bicol sports fest opens

PILI, Camarines Sur—President Macapagal-Arroyo officially opened on Monday the Palarong Bikol 2005 amid pageantry at the Freedom Sports Complex here. In her 30-second speech before some 1,000 delegates from the six Bicol provinces, the President welcomed the delegates who cheered her in response. Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. said he had invited professional skydivers and ordered the lighting up of fireworks during the opening to liven up the five-day sporting events.
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mayor, treasurer cleared

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas has cleared the mayor and treasurer of Valencia town and the provincial lawyer of Negros Oriental of graft charges, saying there was no basis to the allegations raised by Danford Sy of the New Bian Yek Commercial Inc. (NBYCI) against legal officer Erwin Vergara, Mayor Rodolfo Gonzales and treasurer Rolando Obanlana. Sy went to the Ombudsman after Gonzales and Obanlana, supported by Vergara's legal opinion, refused to withhold the payment for Legacy Construction, contractor of the town's waterworks project, as it owed NBYCI P1.7 million in materials used for the project. The Ombudsman agreed with Vergara's opinion that Valencia has to pay the contractor as its obligation was with Legacy Construction and not with NBYCI. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Fire kills deranged man

CEBU CITY—An alleged deranged man, who was being chained in his room, was charred to death while more than 400 houses and shanties were destroyed in an early morning fire that hit the Badjao community in Sitio Alaska, Barangay Mambaling here. The fire killed Armando Bangkal, 30, who allegedly became deranged and violent as a result of drug addiction; destroyed 418 houses; and rendered over 2,000 people homeless. The fire was put off at around 5 a.m. by Gregorio Unabia, 74, to cover his escape after he stabbed and seriously wounded a neighbor and the latter's 3-year-old daughter, the police said. The fire quickly spread in the densely populated Bajao community, a seafaring indigenous people. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

House probes tribes' complaints vs pearl farm

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The House committee on national cultural communities started investigating complaints made by a group of indigenous peoples (IP) against alleged human rights violations committed by guards of a pearl farm in Palawan.

The committee started the investigation here and received a complaint made by the Sambilog, an indigenous people's organization.

The Sambilog, composed of Palawan and Molbog tribal folk, complained that guards of Jewelmer Pearl Farm in Bugsuk, Palawan bar them from fishing in their traditional fishing grounds and restricted their movement near their fishing areas.

The investigation started after Akbayan Party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros Baraquel filed a resolution calling for an investigation of the "illegal and unjust blockade that Jewelmer International Corp. has set up in Bugsuk" and alleged environmental violations made by the firm.

Baraquel also cited in her resolution the alleged human rights violations committed by pearl farm guards against indigenous fishermen.

Melinda de Luna, Jewelmer's marine biologist, said the complaints of Sambilog members were not true.

"Jewelmer does not restrict anyone who uses legal methods to fish near the concession area," she said in Filipino.

Indigenous peoples, Balabac and Palawan officials, national government personnel and Jewelmer representatives were invited to the hearing.

Another IP group, Samaka, however, disputed the accusations of Sambilog against Jewelmer.

It said the manhandling and harassment of fishermen allegedly committed by the pearl farm guards never happened.

Balabac Mayor Romel Solani supported the company's claim. He said the company is there to help protect the marine environment of Balabac.

Rep. Solomon Chungalo, the committee's chair, said this would be the last hearing of his committee.

The issue on human rights violations could be pursued in the committee on human rights, he said.

Chungalo concentrated on the claims of IPs to ancestral land and water and the lease agreement between the Balabac municipality and Jewelmer.

The company holds a 25-year lease agreement which took effect in 1994.

Reuben Lingatin, National Commission for Indigenous Peoples chair, said the certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) application of the IPs was already submitted to their office.

NCIP earlier junked the petition of the pearl farm to oppose the CADT application by saying that it had no basis to do so. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Solicitor general steps into Benguet mayoral post feud

BUGUIAS, Benguet—The legal issue surrounding this town's mayorship became more complicated when the Office of the Solicitor General said the vice mayor should sit as mayor and not the two candidates contesting the position.

The OSG recently told the Supreme Court that neither unseated Mayor Nardo Cayat nor incumbent Mayor Thomas Palileng is entitled to serve as local chief executive.

In a comment filed before the high court, the OSG said Vice Mayor Feliseo Bayacsan should instead succeed Cayat as mayor following a decision of the Commission on Elections to disqualify Cayat as mayoral candidate.

The OSG issued its comment on the pending petition filed by Cayat at the SC that sought to nullify the Comelec decision that unseated him on Nov. 12, 2004.

Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo, Assistant Solicitor General Amy Lazaro-Javier and Associate Solicitor Mildred Marquez signed the OSG comment.

Cayat, a former Catholic priest who was convicted of a sexual offense, won the election on May 10, 2004, when he garnered 8,164 votes. His lone rival Palileng got 5,292 votes.

Before the election, however, Palileng filed a disqualification case against Cayat for the latter's alleged failure to state in his certificate of candidacy that he was previously convicted of a criminal offense.

On May 9, 2004, the Comelec granted Palileng's petition and disqualified Cayat.

Cayat's name, however, was not deleted from the official list of candidates for the May 10 election since election officials here received the Comelec order late.

The municipal board of canvassers proclaimed Cayat as the duly elected mayor but the Comelec national office annulled his election and proclaimed Palileng as mayor.

The OSG, however, said the facts of the case failed to satisfy the legal requirements that should have allowed Palileng to assume the mayoral post.

The OSG said for Palileng to validly succeed Cayat, the following must be shown: That the one who obtained the highest number of votes is disqualified, and "the electorate is fully aware . . . of the candidate's disqualification . . ." *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GLORIA'S MEN PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

All smiles, the President's sons Mikee and Dato visit Camarines Sur to lend support to the Palarong Bikol 2005. On hand to greet them are Camarines Sur officials.

Towns shun funds for reforestation

DUMAGUETE CITY—Only three of the 25 towns and cities in Negros Oriental have availed themselves of funds offered by the provincial government in 2003 for reforestation projects.

Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz appealed to the local government units (LGUs) in the province to prioritize the project because only the towns of Valencia, Amlan and La Libertad have so far taken advantage of the funds.

Two years ago, Arnaiz saw the need to plant more trees in the province and offered P500,000 to each of the 20 towns and five cities for reforestation projects.

Under the project, an LGU may go into commercial forestry, community-based reforestation or near-shore reforestation or mangrove planting.

But the LGU was also required to put up a counterpart fund although the governor did not specify any amount.

Arnaiz said the need to come up with a counterpart fund could be one of the reasons majority of the LGUs in the province were lukewarm to the offer.

But he said the LGUs should not depend much on the national government in reforesting their denuded mountains.

He said local officials should be at the forefront of reforestation.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

INQBOX Question of the Week
Do you think Susan Roces would make a good leader for the opposition? Why or why not?
Win this *Inquirer mug
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug!
Key in inquirer box name/age/city/message.
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Pope opens arms to all faiths

From page A1

them that the Church wants to continue in open and sincere dialogue with them, in search of true good of man and society," he said at the Sistine Chapel.

Promoting ecumenism

"The current successor of Peter ... is willing to do everything in his power to promote the fundamental cause of ecumenism," the 78-year-old Pope said.

The message was clearly designed to show that Benedict was intent on following many of the groundbreaking paths charted by John Paul, who had made reaching out to other religions and trying to heal the 1,000-year-old schism in Christianity a hallmark of his pontificate.

"By choosing me ... the Lord has called me to be a 'rock' on which everybody can stand with confidence. I ask him to make up for my weaknesses so I might be a bold and faithful pastor of his flock."

The strict guardian of Catholic orthodoxy for 23 years, Ratzinger had made clear in recent speeches that he would brook no dissent in his Church.

But his first official speech as Pope appeared to be a commitment to continue moves launched by his predecessors to engage in a dialogue with all religions and cultures.

Dialogue necessary

"Theological dialogue is necessary, the deep study of historic reasons behind past decisions is also indispensable," he said.

Benedict referred to John Paul several times in his message, including a reference to the late Pope's final will, where John Paul said he hoped new generations would draw on the work of the Second Vatican Council, the 1962-65 meeting that modernized the church.

"I too ... want to affirm with decisive willingness to follow in the commitment of carrying out the Second Vatican Council, in the wake of my predecessors and in faithful continuity with the 2,000-year-old tradition of the church," he said.

The new Pontiff also confirmed that he would attend World Youth Day festivities in Cologne in his home country, Germany, in August.

The Aug. 16-21 gathering in the western German city is the first planned foreign trip of his pontificate, according to a schedule left by his predecessor.

John Paul, with Benedict as his doctrinal enforcer, supported council reforms but cracked down on what both men considered excesses spawned by the changes, including calls for priests to be allowed to marry and admission of women into the priesthood.

Age a factor

Benedict had gone into the two-day conclave one of the favorites. He emerged Tuesday as the oldest pontiff at the time of his election in 275 years and the first Germanic pope in almost a millennium.

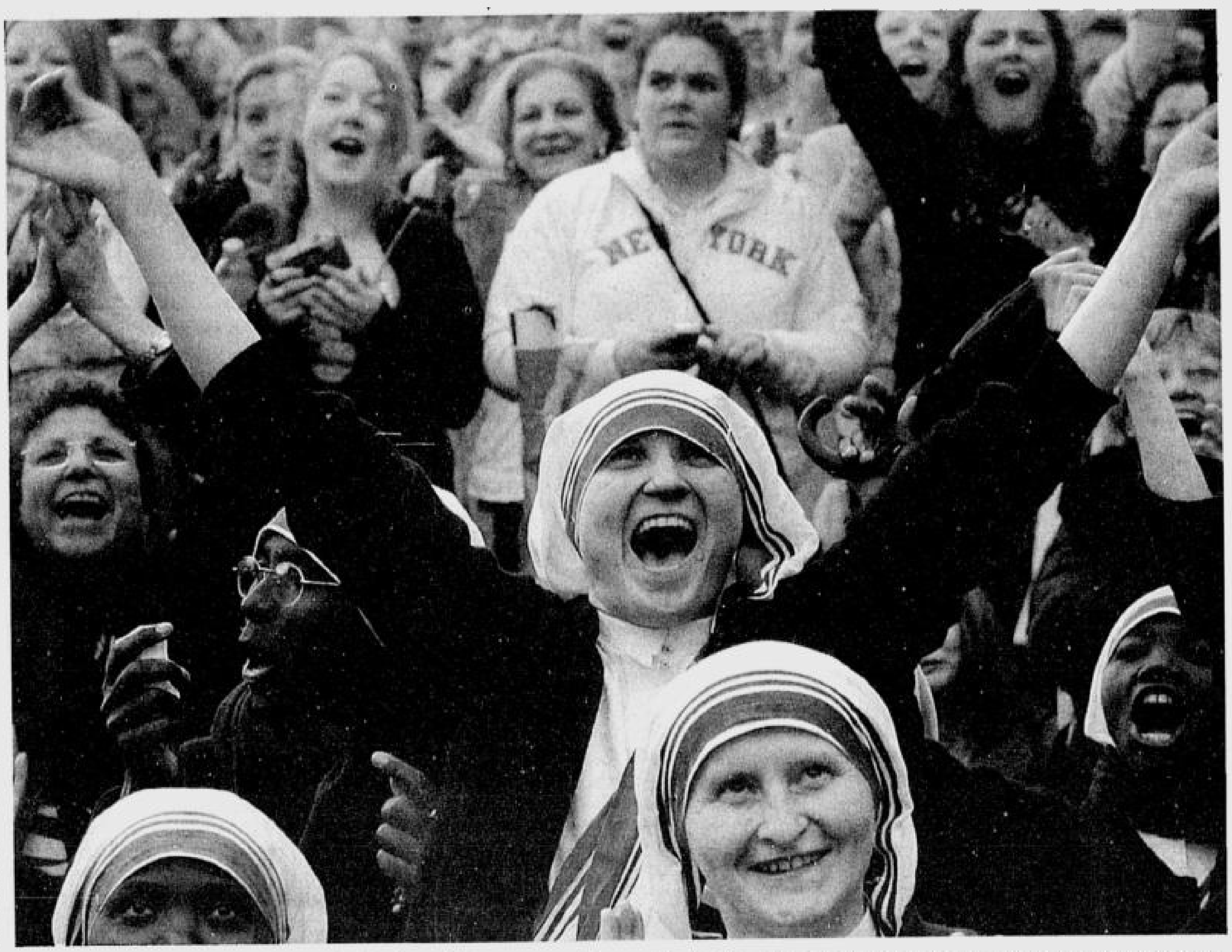
His age clearly was a factor among cardinals who favored a "transitional" pope who could skillfully lead the church as it absorbs John Paul II's legacy, rather than a younger cardinal who could wind up with another long pontificate.

His election in four ballots over two days concluded one of the shortest conclaves in 100 years.

Joy over the selection of a new pope immediately mixed with worries that Benedict could polarize a global church, whose challenges include growing secularism in rich countries and inroads by evangelical groups in regions such as Latin America.

The new Pope, his face clouded with emotion under his papal miter, entered the chapel behind a procession of prelates beneath the gaze of Michelangelo's "Last Judgement."

In keeping with papal tradition, he pronounced the homily in Latin. *AP, Reuters*



DELIGHTFULLY delirious: The crowd at St. Peter's Square roared, jumped for joy, hugged each other, laughed and cried as the clearly white smoke curled up in the chilly air and the bells rang to signal the election of the first pope in the new millennium. AP

Issues that threaten to split Church

From page A1

guardian of Church orthodoxy, where there were absolute truths on matters such as abortion, celibacy and homosexuality.

His election will thrill conservatives seeking a consolidation of John Paul's policies. It will alienate more liberal Catholics, particularly in Europe and North America, who had hoped that after 26 years, a more progressive pope might take the helm of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics.

And it will likely temper hopes around the world of improved relations with other religions.

Enormous power

As prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith since 1981 and a close aide to John Paul, Ratzinger wielded enormous power in shaping Church policy, silencing dissident theologians and signing off on virtually every document that had to do with doctrine.

During his tenure, the Vatican was uncompromising in its opposition to ordaining women, homosexuality and lifting the celibacy requirement for priests.

He authored the "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and the World," which was hugely criticized by women's rights advocates.

He opposed allowing remarried Catholics to receive communion and told American bishops that it was appropriate to deny communion to those who support such "manifest grave sins" as abortion and euthanasia.

Those policies will continue under Benedict XVI, who in celebrating the pre-conclave Mass on Monday made clear that the next pope shouldn't bow to the "winds of doctrine" that tempted the faithful to stray from the core beliefs of the Church.

"The small boat of thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves, thrown from one extreme to the other," he said, listing Marxism, liberalism, atheism and relativism, the ideology that there are no absolute truths.

'My heart sank'

The homily was classic Ratzinger, and clear evidence that at least doctrinally, the Church he will lead will not divert from current teaching.

"When I heard his name mentioned, my heart sank," American Maryknoll sister and theology professor Helen Graham said in Manila early yesterday.

She had had little sleep since the news of Ratzinger's election broke Tuesday night, she confided.

But perhaps to console herself and those who felt the same way, Graham said: "Ratzinger's role in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith differed from this new role as pope, which is to focus on unity.

"I have some hope that this new role will take him in new directions. Now he has a different agenda, a different job, which is to be a symbol of unity."

Interviewed by the INQUIRER just before the conclave, Graham had said she was "saddened by the opposition to even discussing the issue of women's ordination, the stifling of imaginative theological thinking, and the inability to make any change whatsoever in reproductive issues that profoundly affect the lives of women."

Multiculturalism, etc.

A proponent of the use of inclusive language in the liturgy, Graham said she felt that the pontificate of the John Paul II had moved from "the exhilarating days of Vatican II" and its gains.

Ratzinger's writings and comments give a hint of what his papacy will bring.

He has opposed Turkey's bid to join the European Union and dismissed demands for European "multiculturalism" as a "fleeing from what is one's own."

He has also made sure John Paul's efforts to reach out to other religions did not overstep certain bounds. His 2000 decree "Dominus Iesus," which framed the role of the Catholic Church in human salvation in an exclusive manner, upset Protestants, Jews and other non-Christians.

Ratzinger further rankled other Christians when he said he did not want Protestant churches referred to as "sister churches" by Catholics.

He has written that Jews were "connected with God in a special way." But in his book "God and the World," he also said: "We wait for the instant in which Israel will say yes to Christ."

He has spoken out positively about Islam, saying it has had "moments of great splendor."

While he criticized the media for focusing too much on the sins of priests involved in the Church sex abuse scandal, he excoriated the "filth" in the Church in a meditation he wrote for the Good Friday Way of the Cross procession.

'Wishy-washiness'

On Ratzinger's election, Bishop Rolando Tria-Tirona of the Prelature of Infanta told the INQUIRER: "I was very happy. I hope to see him put back moral, spiritual and pastoral sense in Western Europe, where the Church is dwindling. There has been too much relativism, a kind of wishy-washiness there."

As head of the Episcopal Commission on the Youth, Tirona, a Carmelite, will get to meet Pope Benedict XVI a few months from now during the World Youth Day gathering in Cologne, Germany.

On Ratzinger's warning about relativism, Tirona said the new Pope might leave his old public persona behind.

"When you are in another position, you will shed your old role. You have greater perspective," Tirona said.

He said he had met Ratzinger briefly in the past and was impressed by the latter's aura of humility.

"I think he is very objective, [with] a deep sense and love for the Church," the bishop said.

From abroad, Sister Mary John Mananzan, Germany-educated prioress of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters in the Philippines, known feminist and women's rights advocate here and abroad, founder of the Women's Institute of St. Scholastica's College and one of the driving spirits of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Women Theologians, had this to say in a text message: "The only thing I want to say is: I believe in the Holy Spirit more than I believe in my human judgment. That is why I am accepting [Pope Benedict XVI] in faith."

Progressive legacy

Lawmakers in the Philippine House of Representatives said Pope Benedict XVI should not squander his predecessor's "progressive" legacy on war and social justice.

"My concern is that the anti-war stance of Pope John Paul II [would be negated]. I hope that is not abandoned. That will be a good contribution to world peace," said Rep. Liza Maza of the party-list group Gabriela.

Maza said the new Pope should also not abandon its stance on promoting social justice for the poor, especially because the majority of the world's Catholics are in Third World countries like the Philippines.

"That is the preferential option for the poor, and it should be pursued," she said.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, a principal author of the proposed Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 1995 (HB 37730, said he still expected the measure to pass Congress despite the election of a conservative pope.

"We feel and we're confident that this will pass . . . A lot of my colleagues have signed but, of course, they do not want their names revealed so that they would not be pestered by the bishops," he said.

Lagman also said he did not expect the Church to change its teachings against artificial contraceptives, divorce and women's rights: "It will be the same conservative and doctrinaire approach with respect to population management and women's rights. They will not change their position."

Gay, lesbian rights

Filipino gays and lesbians are "worried" about Ratzinger's election, according to the Lesbian and Gay Legislative Advocacy Network Philippines or Lagablab.

"[It] may embolden conservative forces in the Philippines to block attempts to recognize the equal rights of lesbians and gays," the group said in a statement.

Lagablab co-secretary-general Jonas Bagas said there was a pending anti-discrimination bill in Congress seeking to make discrimination against homosexuals a crime. He said the Church opposed the bill, saying it would lead to same-sex unions.

"But whether [the Pope] likes it or not, the issues of homosexuality, women's rights, same-sex marriage, ordaining women and gay priests, and contraceptives will have to be in his agenda," Bagas said.

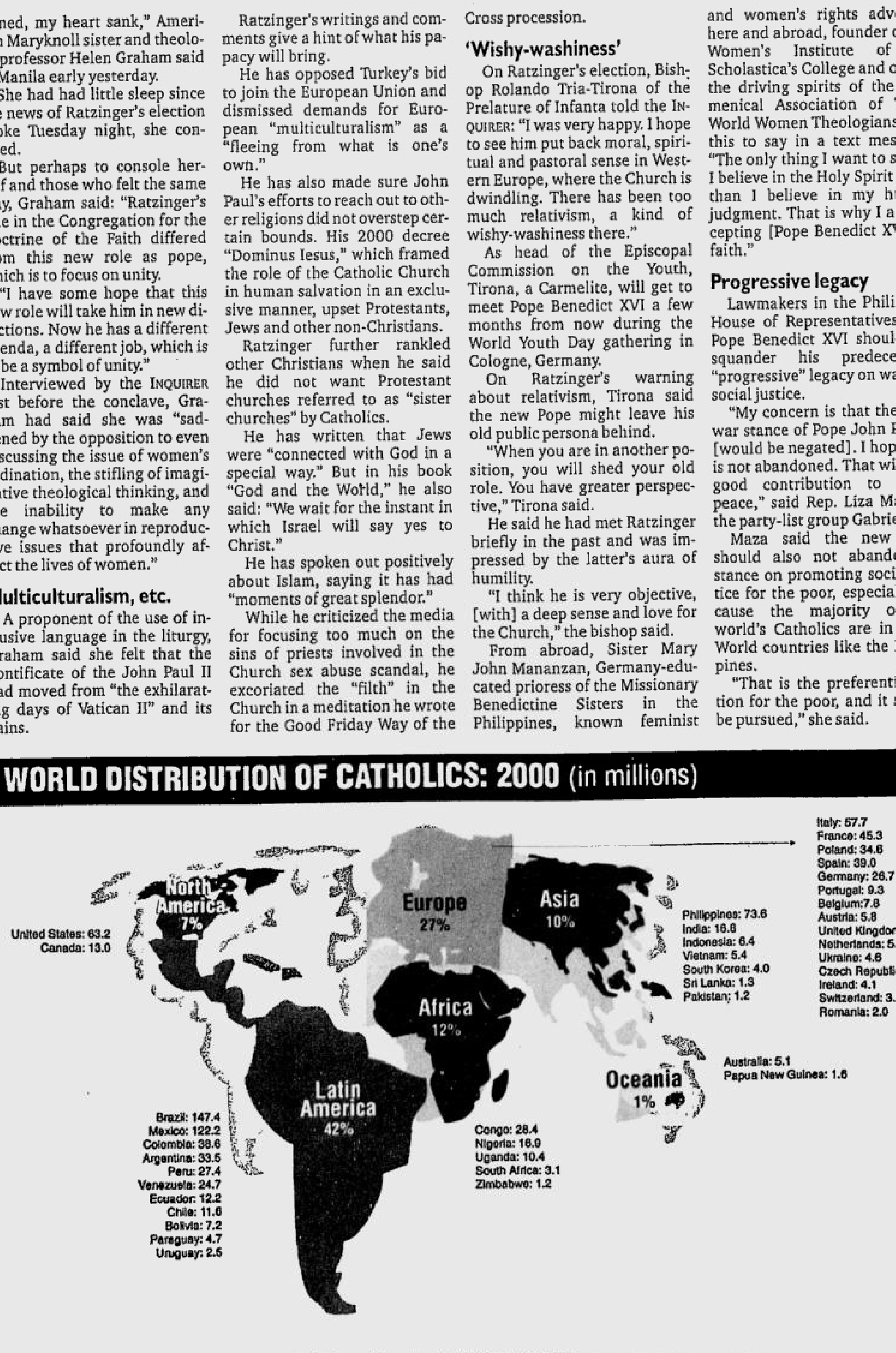
Bridging the divide

He said the Pope "should try to bridge the divide between the Church hierarchy and believers who are alienated by the Church's traditional stance on sexuality."

"We can only hope that as Pope Benedict XVI, Ratzinger will use his fresh start to reach out to those who have been driven away by sectarian hatred and to initiate an era of dialogue and openness within the Catholic faith," Bagas said, adding:

"He has no option but cope with the realities of the modern world and strive to unite a Church divided, as the last Pope Benedict did." *Reports from AP; Ma. Ceres P. Doyo and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila*

WORLD DISTRIBUTION OF CATHOLICS: 2000 (in millions)



Sources: Catholic Missionary Union of England & Wales & www.belielnet.com, www.catholic-hierarchy.org

Son of German policeman reviled by liberals, lionized by conservatives

VATICAN CITY—The son of a policeman, he draws gasps of horror from liberals, but he is lionized by conservatives.

Called "Grand Inquisitor" and "God's Rottweiler" for his tenacity in defending Roman Catholic doctrine, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger—now Pope Benedict XVI—is thought likely to maintain the deeply conservative line of his predecessor, John Paul II.

Before his rise to the papacy, he had been the Vatican's iron hand as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

His fierce opposition to the liberal fringe of the Church has made him a firm foe of progressive Catholics.

In 1984, he said "communist regimes which came to power in the name of the liberation are one of the disgraces of our times."

In the run-up to last year's US presidential election, he sought to deny communion to anyone supporting abortion, including Democratic candidate John Kerry, causing a stir.

"It will be difficult to like this pope, because of his positions on the church and on the world," said liberation theologian Leonardo Boff, a former student of Ratzinger.

No lover of rock

Before the election, Boff said Ratzinger became "one of the church's most hated cardinals" because of his doctrinaire stance.

Ratzinger has also attacked rock music, calling it "the expression of basic passions."

But while he criticized the media for focusing too much on the sins of priests involved in sex scandals, he also excoriated the "filth" in the Church.

"It would be hard to find a Catholic controversy in the past 20 years that did not somehow involve Joseph Ratzinger," John Allen, a Vatican reporter for the National Catholic Register, wrote six years ago.

But the style of the Benedict XVI papacy will likely be vastly different from that of John Paul, who trotted the globe and brought a movie-star quality to the papacy.

Most importantly, Ratzinger is 78 and his health last year was "not that good" according to the Rev. Thomas Reese, a Vatican expert.

As a result, Ratzinger's papacy will be viewed as a shorter, transitional one.

"In a few years, we could be right back where we were, with a sick, elderly even perhaps dying pope," said Reese.

The new Pope also lacks the pastoral qualities that made John Paul so beloved.

Unseen Benedict

But Vatican watchers also say that there is more to Ratzinger than the world has seen in the past two decades, noting his love of music—he is an accomplished pianist—and his solid credentials as a scholar.

Critics complain that Ratzinger embodies all the conservative instincts of the last papacy—but without John Paul's charisma and pastoral genius.

"I think this is the closest the Church can come to human cloning," quipped Gibson.

Raised in the oak forest Bavaria and the son of a policeman, Ratzinger said he was enrolled in Hitler's Nazi youth movement against his will. At the same time, he entered seminary studies in 1939 as a 12-year-old.

He recalled being deeply moved by the rituals of the Church, such as candlelight services and midnight Mass.

But in 1943, he was drafted as an assistant to a Nazi anti-aircraft unit in Munich. Later, he was shipped off to build tank barriers at the Austian-Hungarian border. He wrote that he escaped recruitment in the dreaded SS because he and others said they were training to be priests.

He deserted in April 1945 and returned to his hometown, where he was well known for playing Mozart on the seminary's grand piano.

Jailed as deserter

Ratzinger was later identified as a deserter and placed in prisoner-of-war camp in southern Germany. He wrote that he could see the spires of the city's cathedral in the distance.

"It was, for me, like a consoling proclamation of the indescribable humaneness of faith," he wrote.

One priest who knows him said Ratzinger was "far superior to his predecessor in intellect" who may produce some surprises now that he is his own man.

He also emphasized that the Pontiff was a very humble man who had no desire to be a superstar. *AFP, AP, Reuters*

New Pope takes charge

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI on Wednesday took possession of the apartment where John Paul died and from which popes have traditionally addressed crowds in St. Peter's Square below.

A high-ranking prelate said the new Pope had also "taken possession" of another papal apartment in the Vatican's St. John's Tower, which is used by popes when maintenance work is done in the Apostolic Palace.

"He was serene. He walked slowly around. It was as if he had been Pope all the time," the source said. "He was a person at peace with himself."

Taking possession was a formal act which opened the suite of rooms for the first time since they were sealed after the death of John Paul II, in keeping with Vatican tradition.

The papal apartments are familiar to the world because it is from one of their windows that the Pope delivers his Sunday noon blessing. *Reuters*

German cardinals break oath of secrecy, say champagne topped Pope's first dinner

VATICAN CITY—Whatever happened to the sacred oath of secrecy?

Cardinals were sworn to silence about everything that happened during deliberations in the Sistine Chapel to choose a new pope. But within hours of the conclave, some German cardinals—delighted about the choice of their countryman, Joseph Ratzinger—spilled some of the secrets.

And among the things they said was that the new Pope's first dinner with them was topped with ice cream and champagne.

Cardinal Joachim Meisner told reporters that the new Pope Benedict XVI was elected on the fourth ballot—the first of the afternoon session. He added that Ratzinger got more than the required two-thirds support.

"It was done without an electoral battle, and without propaganda," the archbishop of Cologne said. "For me it was a miracle."

There was spontaneous applause as soon as cardinals realized Ratzinger had won, Meisner said.

"And I burst out crying," he added.

Cold cuts and fruits

The new Pope asked cardinals to dine together on bean soup, cold cuts, a salad and fruit, Meisner said.

The nuns who prepared their meals didn't have time to plan a special menu, so there were only two special treats—ice cream and champagne.

Meisner and three other German cardinals spent about 45 minutes answering questions and didn't seem worried about commenting despite their vow of silence.

One query the cardinals wouldn't answer is exactly how many votes Ratzinger garnered.

Pope looked forlorn

"We've already said enough," said Cardinal Georg Maximilian Sterzinsky, the archbishop of Berlin.

Meisner gave a few clues about the new Pope's emotional reaction on being named. He said Benedict XVI looked "a little forlorn" when he went to change into his papal vestments in the Room of Tears—which earned its nickname because many new pontiffs get choked up there, realizing the enormity of their mission.

"I was worried, because when he came back dressed in his white vestments, I thought he had forgotten his skullcap," Meisner said. "But then I realized his hair is as white as his skullcap."

Meisner added: "By the time dinner came around, Ratzinger was looking much better and very much like the pope."

Some US cardinals also offered insight about why the vote went to Ratzinger.

Third World support

New York Cardinal Edward Egan was asked whether the new Pope had the support of Catholics in Latin America and Africa.

"Obviously, he must have had support from the Third World," he responded.

Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali said the decision to choose Ratzinger was not made in the days leading up to the conclave or as a result of Ratzinger's moving homily at John Paul II's funeral.

"Decisions like this are not made on how a person impresses you in the last five minutes, the last hours, the last days," he said.

Thoughts of John Paul

Rigali said the cardinals thought about what John Paul had accomplished. Ratzinger was close to the late Pope.

"We were looking for a successor of [St.] Peter, the first pope," Rigali said. "We were looking for a successor of John Paul II. All of us were talking about the incredible qualities of John Paul II, knowing the world is calling him 'The Great'."

After Ratzinger formally accepted the vote, each of the cardinals approached the new Pope to kneel before him in a traditional act of homage and obedience to the Supreme Pontiff.

Then he was led away to the Room of Tears. *AP, AFP*

GMA, Sin hail election of Ratzinger

From page A1

of joy and fervent hope as he begins his own journey for peace as bearer of God's abundant love for all humanity."

Ms Arroyo expressed hope that the new Pope would follow in the footsteps of John Paul.

The President said: "I am certain Pope Benedict XVI will serve as a continuing beacon leading the 1.1 billion Catholics of the world across the trials and challenges of the millennium."

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said the new Pontiff was "a very warm man."

Flabbergasted

Rosales told reporters he had tried to get Pope Benedict, then a cardinal, to come to the Philippines when they talked for 20 minutes during a synod, or a meeting of archbishops, in Rome in 1998.

Rosales said that he was walking along the halls of the conference building when Ratzinger came up to him.

"Someone approached me and said 'Could I join you, Your Excellency?' and who is beside me? Ratzinger," Rosales said, adding: "He is a man known for his depth, intelligence and seriousness. I was flabbergasted at what he did. I felt so small."

He said the future pontiff then looked at his badge and learned that he was from the Philippines. It was at this point that Rosales introduced himself.

He said that to the stares of other bishops, he and Ratzinger talked for 20 minutes, discussing the Philippines and the situation in the country.

When Ratzinger mentioned that he would later be going to Hong Kong to make a speech, Rosales asked him to visit this country.

"So discreetly he said, 'No, I can't do that because of my position'," Rosales recounted. He said he tried several times to convince Ratzinger to make the visit.

Support from CBCP

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines vowed to support and pray for the new Pontiff.

"As moral and spiritual values deteriorate, and as absolute truths are revitalized and negated, the bishops support His Holiness in the Church's continuing struggle against the 'dictatorship of relativism' where truth is bereft of love and love bereft of truth as he said before the start of the conclave," CBCP president Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla said in a statement.

Pakistani president

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who was visiting the Philippines, voiced confidence that the new Pope would be able to bridge the gap between the West and the Muslim world.

"Certainly, the Pope can play a role in bringing about inter-faith harmony," he said at the forum hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

"Yes indeed he can bring some harmony in the thought processes, into the thinking of the world which today is divided ... He can play a role in suppressing this kind of negative thoughts and bringing a better environment," he added.

Cheers up north

The members of the Northern Luzon Bishops Conference (NLBC) also welcomed the election of Benedict.

The NLBC members were meeting in San Fabian, Pangasinan, when news about the results of the papal election broke.

"We were so happy that we clapped after the announcement," said Lingayen-Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who hosted the meeting.

Muslim leaders in Mindanao said they hoped the new Pope would spur chances of world peace.

"We hope to see Pope Benedict continue the peace efforts of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, and his undying compassion for the poor," said Abhoud Syed Lingga, executive director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies.

"We hope he will follow John Paul's footsteps in fighting violence and terrorism through prayer, compassion for the needy and respect for human rights," Lingga said.

Undersecretary Zamzamin Ampatuan, executive director of the Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA), noted that Benedict's elevation to the papacy came a day before the birthday of Prophet Muhammad. *Gil Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Villamor Visaya Jr., Charlie C. Señase, Edwin O. Fernandez and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE EARLY YEARS

1932: As a schoolboy in Aschau am Inn (on the Inn River), Germany at the foot of the Alps where his family relocated due to his father's anti-Nazi stance. AFP

UNDATED: Enrolled in Hitler's Nazi youth movement against his will as membership was compulsory. REUTERS

1952: The young priest says Mass in Ruhpolding in his home state of Bavaria. REUTERS

1951: With elder brother Georg in Freising, Bavaria, at their ordination. AFP

1951: Two priests in the Ratzinger family (Joseph, right) pose with their parents and sister in Freising, Bavaria. His father, a policeman, was from a family of farmers. AFP

1965: As a professor at the University of Regensburg in Germany. REUTERS

1977: As new archbishop of Munich, he greets hundreds of believers upon his arrival in the Bavarian capital Munich. AP

2000: With brother Georg, he arrives at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof in Munich to launch his book, God and World. AP

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5 dead, 4 missing in Binondo fire

FIREMEN carry down the remains of an unidentified victim in yesterday's fire in Binondo. JOAN BONDOC

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Jean Marionne Bermudez, trainee

WHEN firemen managed to bring him to safety, away from the family's burning building in Binondo, Manila, 25-year-old Elizalde Chua decided to go back and rescue his parents and siblings trapped inside.

He never made it back.

Elizalde's body was the first to be recovered after a fire hit the Eliong Commercial building at No. 589 Quintin Paredes St. at 2:37 a.m. The fire was declared under control at 1:46 pm, or almost 12 hours after it started.

Elizalde's brother Edralin, 28, and Erika, 16, were recovered hours later by firemen at the third floor of the four-storey building.

FO1 Lords Hernandez of the Manila Fire Department said the body of an unidentified female helper was found on the second floor. Another body was discovered charred beyond recognition.

Fire officials said Elizalde's parents, Ely, 58, and Tessie, 52, along with two other helpers, were still missing.

Two of the Chua family's six helpers were, however, rescued a few hours after the fire began at 2:37 a.m. at the building's ground floor.

Luisita Servales, 28, sustained third degree burns and was taken to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment.

Myrna Pesaro, 42, who was found at the rear portion of the building, sustained the least injuries of the survivors, with lacerations on both feet. She was rushed to the Metropolitan Hospital.

Hernandez explained that the fire took several hours to control because of the highly combustible goods inside the building.

"The Chua family sold plastic toys, which took a long time to burn," Hernandez told the INQUIRER.

The arson investigator also said that the "impenetrable" grills of the building prevented the firemen from entering the building with ease.

"We had to use a chainsaw to destroy the grills," Hernandez said, adding that the fire exits of the building were also blocked with merchandise.

"It looked like the tenants made a choice between security or safety," he added.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said he had given directives to his inspectors to make sure that all the buildings in the city were safe from possible fires.

"The building was relatively new compared to the other structures around it," Atienza said.

"We still have to find out if the tragedy was caused by improper maintenance or the lack of exits," the mayor added.

Some of Erika's friends cried openly near the Binondo Church, passing around her framed picture. Relatives of the Chuas refused to talk to the media about the family or the incident.

Plea filed for bomb courier

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE JUSTICE department has formally asked the Makati court to turn confessed Abu Sayyaf bomb courier Gappal Bannah into a state witness.

State prosecutors filed on Tuesday a motion asking the court to free Bannah, alias Boy Negro, of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges arising from the deadly Valentine's Day bombing in Makati City.

He has been charged with five other alleged Abu Sayyaf members for the terrorist attack.

"The court will hear the motion on Friday morning," state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The motion was filed before Judge Marissa Guillen of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 62.

In the motion, Velasco said, "There is absolute need for his testimony because no other person could testify with respect to what he knows about the bombing, particularly about the involvement of Abu Solaiman, Khaddafy Janjalani, and [Indonesian terror suspect] Zaky," three of Bannah's fellow accused.

Velasco added that Bannah "does not appear to be the most guilty" among the accused, a list that also included confessed ASG members Gamal Baharan, alias Tapay, and Angelo Trinidad.

Tapay, Trinidad and Zaky are in government custody.

Bannah was the first to admit to the charges, while Baharan and Trinidad decided later to withdraw the "not guilty" plea they had entered in court, and admit their guilt instead.

The state prosecutor likewise told the court that Bannah's testimony "could be corroborated by other physical and testimonial evidence he was set to present ... and that Bannah would be a credible witness as he has never been convicted of perjury in any trial court."

'Witness' in Lanot killing retracts

"I MADE it all up."

That was the fresh confession of a man who earlier claimed that he knew about the plan to kill former Pasig City Rep. Henry Lanot.

"Magulo kasi ang isip ko e, marami akong problema sa pamilya at pera (I'm confused ... I have family and money problems)," said supposed witness Anthony Tadiwan.

Tadiwan, who claimed to be an military reservist, added, *"Pinagdugtong-dugtong ko lang yung mga sinabi ko. Wala talaga akong alam doon* (I simply pieced together everything I said. I don't know anything about the case)."

Tadiwan retracted his earlier claims after grilling by the National Buteau of Investigation (NBI).

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Tadiwan gave conflicting statements during investigation.

"Based on our evaluation, he was just out to mislead the investigation," Wycoco said.

However, the NBI director added that Tadiwan could still play a significant role in solving the case by testifying against the person who ordered him to muddle the investigation.

Wycoco revealed that they would be inviting for questioning a local government employee who apparently ordered Tadiwan to make his earlier statements.

Pay-off eyed

"(It was) perhaps in exchange for money," the NBI director said.

Earlier, Tadiwan revealed in an interview with dzBB anchorman Arnold Clavio that a woman was the reason behind Lanot's murder. He also claimed that a businessman, not a political figure, ordered the killing.

Tadiwan took back his claims when confronted by Ken Lanot, eldest son of the slain politician, at the NBI headquarters in Manila.

The retraction by the supposed witness bolstered suspicions by the Lanot family that Tadiwan was sent to throw the investigation off track.

"His testimony could just be a diversionary tactic to confuse investigators," Gerry, Lanot's uncle, told the INQUIRER hours before Tadiwan took back his statements.

Lanot's family reiterated that politics was behind the murder.

The former congressman ran for mayor last year but lost to Vicente Eusebio.

He protested Eusebio's victory in court, accusing the latter of premature campaigning.

Before his death, Lanot expressed confidence that he would win his protest and that the court would be issuing a resolution soon.

Lanot's family commemorated yesterday the first death anniversary of his father, Tomas, who died of old age.

Lanot's mother Marcosa arrived from Mindoro Oriental three weeks ago for her husband's death anniversary.

Little did she know she would be attending the funeral of the son closest to her heart.

At the Pasig City police headquarters, Senior Supt. Raul Medina expressed uncertainty whether or not he would be able to return as city police director.

Medina has gone on leave to give investigators a free hand.

There have been calls from Lanot's allies for an overhaul of the city police.

Supporters and some relatives have also expressed fears of a whitewash in the investigation.

Medina is widely perceived among Lanot's allies as a supporter of Eusebio.

Medina only filed for a two-week leave but said he was not sure if his superiors would still allow him to reassume his post.

Tina G. Santos and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Sonny to the rescue

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT LOOKED like one of his movie scripts. But this time, it was for real.

Yesterday morning, action star Sonny Parsons, shot it out with three robbers who had held up one of his neighbors

Maria Christina Regato, a bookkeeper, was waiting for a tricycle at about 5:30 a.m. in Barangay Concepcion Dos when three robbers on board a tricycle stopped in front of her.

One of the robbers, armed with an ice-pick, grabbed the victim's bag, which contained P23,500 in cash, police said.

The robbers could have escaped easily, but Regato, who was standing in front of Parson's house, shouted for help.

"Her screams woke me up. I jumped out of bed, got my gun and went out," Parsons, Jose Nabiola in real life, told the INQUIRER.

Outside, he saw the three robbers escaping on board their tricycle.

Parsons said the robbers opened fire at him so he fired back. One of them was hit in the leg, he added. But the three managed to escape with the money.

Parsons said their area was notorious for robbery incidents. "Robbers are braver now. They strike even in well-lighted places," he added.

The action star, who started out as a singer, had also been involved in similar encounters.

In January 2003, he was in a shootout with alleged burglars who had barged into his house.

Six months earlier, he had killed two suspected robbers who had also attacked him at home.

Last year, Parsons, also a former Marikina councilor, ran for mayor but lost.

Pakistani says cops after him

By Fran Katigbak

A PAKISTANI charged with manufacturing and selling fake drugs is accusing lawmen of harassing him after an alleged P10-million extortion bid.

Majeed Mohammad Asif is claiming that members of the Regional Intelligence Special Operations (RISO) of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) had been calling his home and cellular phone to harass him and his family.

Members of the RISO raided his house in Las Piñas on Dec. 9, 2004 and reportedly seized half a million pesos worth of fake medicines. They later charged him in court.

That same month, Asif charged nine RISO members with robbery extortion, violation of domicile, arbitrary detention, carnapping, perjury and malicious prosecution before the Las Piñas Prosecutor's office.

It was then that the lawmen allegedly began harassing him.

"My family and I are scared," Asif said. "We even changed the car and transferred to another place for our protection."

But RISO chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan said Asif and his wife, Elizabeth Borcelis, were only trying to get back at his men, led by Chief Insp. Jovem Bocalbos.

He said Bocalbos and his other men were only doing their job.

"The burden of proof is not on us," said Bocalbos.

He added, "Asif and Bocelis should be the ones to show proof they were robbed."

BIR's Parayno's ill-timed move

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

REVENUE Commissioner Guillermo Parayno stirred a hornet's nest when he said that non-religious business ventures of churches or religious groups should be taxed. But he's right. Why shouldn't the non-religious money-making ventures of churches and religious groups be exempt from taxes?

Parayno, however, will have difficulty determining which business ventures of the churches should be taxed or exempted from tax. Some Catholic religious congregations like the Jesuits run schools that spread the Word of God. Will these schools be taxed when they form part of the local Catholic Church's gospel?

* * *

The earnings of Brother Mike Velarde's El Shaddai should definitely be taxed because they only benefit the guru himself and not his flock. Velarde was able to build high-rise condominiums from the "love offerings" of his flock. Who benefited from money donations given by El Shaddai members? Not the Catholic Church, definitely, but only Velarde.

Velarde and Eddie Villanueva of the Jesus is Lord church are raking in millions of pesos from their flocks. Where else do the earnings of these religious sects go except to the two religious leaders?

My *pilosopo* friend said that since religious groups earn oodles and oodles of money without taxes, he could also found a religion.

* * *

Anyway, back to Parayno. Although he was right about taxing the non-religious activities of churches and religious groups, his timing was off.

He should have known that the administration of his boss, President Macapagal-Arroyo, is under fire from some members of the Catholic Church. Some priests and bishops are hitting the government's family planning program.

Parayno no doubt is a brilliant and efficient tax collector. He has a high IQ (intelligence quotient), but is low in emotional quotient (EQ) or dealing with his fellowmen. In short, he lacks public relations. If he had a high EQ, he wouldn't have come out with the tax-the-church stand at a time when the government is under fire from the Catholic Church.

* * *

Saudi Arab national Fouzi Bondagjy, who has filed libel cases against this writer, is now being sought by the Bureau of Immigration. Some 300 Maranaws (Muslims from Lanao) filed complaints in the immigration bureau against Bondagjy. The Saudi businessman allegedly collected P16 million from them for a religious pilgrimage to Mecca. They were not able to leave for the pilgrimage, but Bondagjy has not returned their money. Instead, he hid from them, they said.

The claim tends to buttress this writer's allegation that he had fooled many overseas jobseekers. Bondagjy filed libel suits against me for adverse articles about him in this column.

Now, it's Bondagjy's turn to face the music. He answers to Immigration Commissioner Al Fernandez who's very sympathetic to countrymen complaining against foreigners.

If Bondagjy gets away this time, he won't escape the wrath of the Maranaws. They will deal harshly with him.

METROBRIEFS

Wrong job

TEN MOVIE stunt men who said they were contractual employees of the Optical Media Board (OMB) were caught with some 200 VCDs and DVDs of foreign, local and pornographic movies they allegedly filched from the anti-piracy office. A Central Police District mobile patrol unit chanced upon the suspects on board three taxi cabs loaded with stacks of assorted CDs. SPO4 Meliton Maala said suspect Rigo Ramirez, 30, now detained at Camp Karingal, denied he had CDs in his possession when they were arrested, but added that some of his companions "borrowed" the CDs from the OMB to watch at home or to lend to their friends. He said they did not intend to sell the CDs.Ramirez said they were movie stun men who had been tapped by OMB Chair Edu Manzano to work for the board in its drive against vendors of pirated movies. Their job was to pack the CDs confiscated by the OMB from its series of anti-piracy raids in Metro Manila, he added. A case of qualified theft will be filed against the suspects. An OMB employee, however, said they do not hire contractual workers, but added that Manzano can do so provided he uses his own money to pay their salaries. She said that those authorized to handle the confiscated CDs were not allowed to take the discs home. ***Kristine Jade Tinio, trainee***

Arellano reunion

THE ARELLANO High School (Manila North) will hold a general alumni homecoming on April 24, 4-9 p.m., at the school quadrangle. Renato C. Sangalang, president of the alumni association and member of the host Batch '80, said this year's theme would be "Kasama Ka: Sa Pagbabalik Tanaw at Pagkalinga sa Ating Paaralan," Highlights of the event, which will be managed by ABC Productions, include the presentation of the Most Outstanding Silver Jubilarian Award to Evelyn Tuesca Alvarez,the Most Outstanding Jubilarian Award to Justice Cancio C. Garcia, and the Most Distinguished Alumnus Award to businessman Jaime Y. Ladao. Singer Nella dela Rosa will perform during the affair. For details, call Rene or Karen, 736-5949 or 0918-904-5006.

Writing seminar

THE ATV Speakers' Network will be holding a seminar on how to write a book on April 23 from 1-5 p.m. For details, call Aida, Josie or Eva at 896-8790 or 899-8441.

Malabon builds homes to celebrate cityhood

TO MARK its 4th year as a city, the Malabon local government promises to be generous.

The city has allocated half a billion pesos to finance the construction of eight buildings for its housing program.

Aside from the housing project, the money will also be used to improve City Hall and the renovation of the justice hall.

"The projects are expected to be completed in the next two years," Oreta said.

Though the cityhood of Malabon was granted through Republic act 9019 on March 5, 2001, the anniversary is celebrated every April 21, Oreta said.

He explained that April 21 was the day it was ratified by residents.

The occasion, Oreta said, will be the appropriate time to announce his plans and program for the city.

A swimming pool, several parks, a sports complex, a tennis court.for the use of the residents of the city will also be built, the mayor said.

Even criminals would benefit from the city's generosity.

A new city jail will be built to replace the present congested one, he said. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

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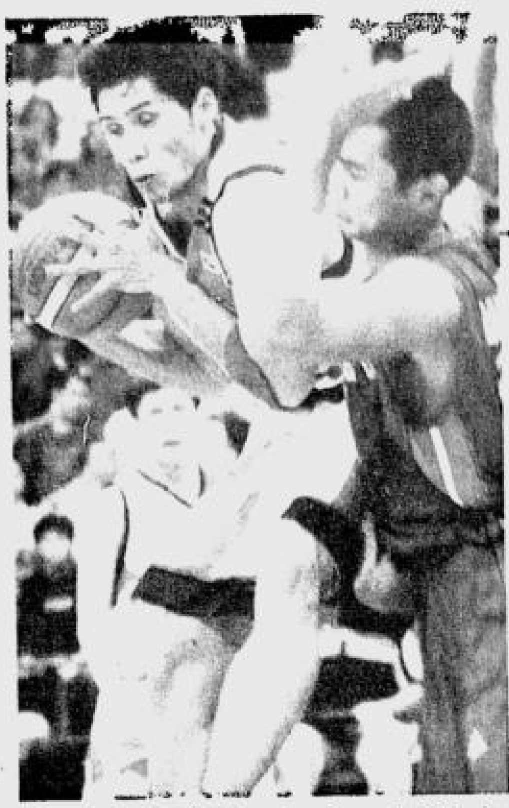

HONTIVEROS (left) grabs rebound off Kerby Raymundo of Purefoods. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Dondon trey lifts SMB past P'foods

By June Navarro

DONDON Hontiveros nailed a three-pointer with 8.4 seconds left to carry San Miguel Beer to a pulsating 71-70 squeaker over skidding Purefoods in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Philsports Arena last night.

Hontiveros squeezed his way to the top of the key, received a feed from Olsen Racela and launched the trey over rookie James Yap for the Beermen's second straight win, their seventh in 10 games.

But while the win allowed the Beermen to take a grip on the solo lead, it broke the hearts of coach Ryan Gregorio and the TJ Hotdogs, whose losing streak against their sister team stretched to seven meetings. The TJ Hotdogs dropped to 4-6.

"There was no special pattern on that final play, it just so happened that Dondon was free and made the shot," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico after the Beermen prevented a near collapse in the dying minutes.

Chris Burgess was assessed with a goal-tending violation after swatting away Noy Castillo's running jumper, giving the TJ Hotdogs a 70-68 edge going into the final 22 seconds.

Danny Seigle finished with a game-high 28, Nic Belasco added 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Yap again carried the fight for the TJ Hotdogs, drilling in 25 points after going nine of 16 from the field. Kerby Raymundo chipped in 18 points while Antonio Smith had eight points and 21 rebounds.

FedEx leaned on a jumper by Ranidel de Ocampo with nine seconds left to nip Coca-Cola, 95-94, in the nightcap. FedEx improved to 4-5 while Coca-Cola fell to 3-6.

Meanwhile, national coach Chot Reyes has split the RP training pool into two teams for the coming weekend pocket tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Team A is composed of Danny Seigle, Willie Miller, Mike Cortez, Renren Ritualo, Hontiveros, Kerby Raymundo, Yancy de Ocampo, Sonny Thoss, Rommel Adducul and Fil-Am Kelly Williams.

Team B is composed of Eric Menk, Tony dela Cruz, Enrico Villanueva, Jimmy Alapag, Mark Caguioa, Yap, Brandon Cablay, Belasco, Rafi Reavis and amateur Anthony Washington. Jayjay Helterbrand is still in the injured list.

The scores

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 71—Seigle 28, Belasco 12, Racela 10, Hontiveros 9, Burgess 8, Mente 2, Pena 2, Lopez 0, Villoria 0

PUREFOODS 70—Yap 25, Raymundo 18, Smith 8, Castillo 7, Simon 5, Espinosa 3, Evangelista 2, Yee 2, Hrabak 0, Limpot 0

Quarters: 19-19, 33-37, 49-55, 71-70

Strongest five for SEAG assured

By Marc Anthony Reyes, Jasmine W. Payo and June Navarro

CALL IT overkill or whatever, but the Philippines is out to affirm its last claim to basketball glory as master of the sport in Southeast Asia.

From a purely exclusive concern of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, the formation of teams for the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championship and the Southeast Asian Games this year was taken over by a basketball committee formed by officials of the Philippine Olympic Committee and other cage bodies yesterday.

"We are tasked to form the strongest possible team for the SEA Games and the Seaba in conjunction with the BAP," POC official Joey Romasanta, who was named secretary general of the committee, told the INQUIRER. "We are not talking of anything beyond those concerns."

PBA commissioner Noli Eala and PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, members of the committee whose leagues could supply the core players for the two national squads, hinted of a longer role of the committee in the country's basketball affairs.

"[The committee was formed] to ensure that in the future we won't get into the situation where we are now, where were not able to send the best team," said Eala, who also clarified that the committee still respects BAP authority as the national sports association for basketball.

"We have a commitment to work together," said Trinidad. "We're here to look at the program and establish a working framework, something that is lasting. We're setting the direction of the basketball program."

The committee, to be chaired by POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, was created in a summit Tuesday. The summit and the committee's formation was an offshoot of a scandalous loss the national team being prepared for the SEAG suffered two weeks ago in the National Basketball Conference.

The loss prompted calls for the dissolution of that team, bankrolled by Cebuana Lhuillier. This also prompted requests for the PBA training team to represent the country in the Seaba.

"These are the issues that prompted us to meet and these are the issues that we are going to address," Romasanta added.

I am out if they're in—Nazario

By Jasmine W. Payo

LONG-TIME Manny Pacquiao manager Rod Nazario said he's out if the Filipino ring sensation insists on working with his new management team.

"If anyone of those people around him now—including (trainer) Freddie Roach—*ang hindi niya mabibitawan (stays with him)* , I'll be out," said Nazario in a press conference Tuesday night.

Pacquiao has figured in a financial squabble with Nazario and American promoter Murad Muhammad since losing to Mexican fighter Erik Morales in Las Vegas last month.

The disagreement started after Pacquiao's new American manager Shelly Finkel announced several days after the bout that Pacquiao's former handlers had not been paying his taxes since he started fighting in the US four years ago.

The new management team of the Ring Magazine featherweight champion also said that Muhammad took Pacquiao's 40-percent share of the pay-per-view revenue of his bout with Morales.

But Nazario debunked Pacquiao's claim to the pay-per-view revenues, saying no such contract existed. "It's only Finkel's group who's been telling Manny that he has a share," he said.

Nazario also shot down the tax issue allegations by presenting photocopied documents, including issued checks to the US Internal Revenue Service.

"These people are poisoning the mind of Manny," said Nazario. "The problem with Manny is he's listening to these people he has only known for a few weeks. He has known me for 10 years. *'Yun ang sinasama ng loob ko* (And that hurts)."

Nazario maintained that the $525,000 IRS deducted from Pacquiao's $1.75 million purse was the required 30 percent tax, not a cover up for previous tax liabilities.

He even pointed out that he hasn't received a cent from Pacquiao's biggest ever prize.

Joseph gets nod of Fina

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE swimming is now out of troubled waters.

The international swimming federation (Fina) finally put an end to the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association leadership issue after Fina executive director Cornel Marculescu upheld a decision by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) confirming the election of Olympian Mark Joseph as Pasa president.

In a faxed message sent Monday from the Fina headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, Marculescu told Joseph the federation "has decided to confirm the decision made by the POC and recognize your nomination as president of the Pasa."

Joseph expressed delight over the news, saying RP swimming can now focus its energy developing the sport and turning the country into a dominating force again in the Asian region.

"Now we can move on with our road map and put the (leadership) issue aside for good," said Joseph, who was elected Pasa chief last Sept. 11 in Cebu City.

Joseph's election was disputed by former Pasa president Chito Ilagan, whose group held a similar poll a week later in San Pablo, Laguna.

The POC tried to patch things up with a "win-win" solution which Ilagan's group later turned down, prompting the POC to uphold Joseph and fellow Olympians Akiko Thomson, Pinky Brosas and Ral Rosario as the duly elected Pasa officials.

Pasa recently held a national tryout for the RP training team that will compete in the Southeast Asian championships in Brunei next month.

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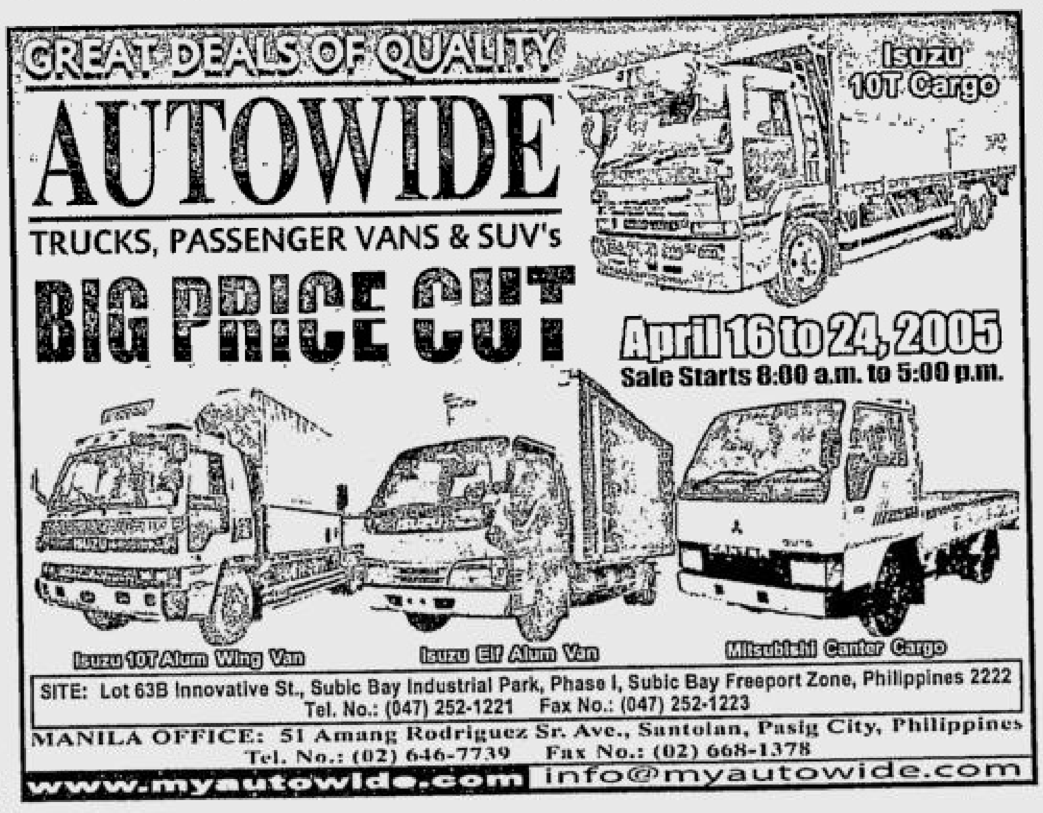

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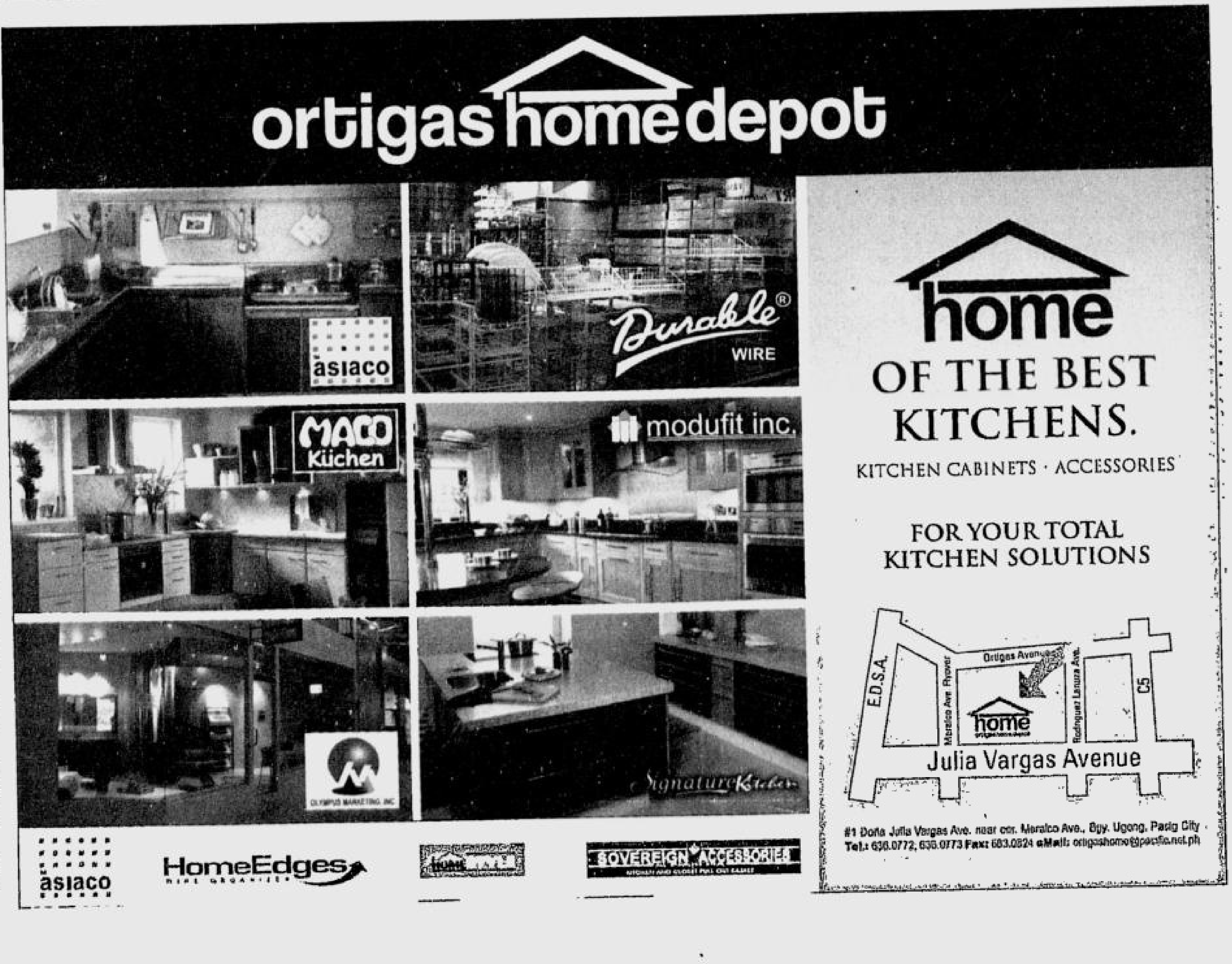

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Karagatan Festival set

PUERTO Princesa stakes its claim as the country's premier sports destination when it holds the sixth "Karagatan Festival" at the Tangkayan Beach Coast on April 29-May 1.

Hosted by the Puerto Princesa City government, headed by Mayor Edward Hagedorn and sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Smart, Norkis Yamaha, JAKA and Asian Spirit Airlines, the festival will feature competition in several sports events.

Highlight of the festival is the mountain bike race from Irawan to Tangkawayan.

Hagedorn has tapped Manuel "Boy" Macasaet and motocross legend Butch Chase as chief event organizers.

Chase said the organizing committee expects thousands of visitors to watch the festival.

PARAGUA

Star-studded Cebu chessfest up

WORLD'S top ranked International Master Mark Paragua will spearhead the elite cast in this weekend's Filway/Time Life Open Active Chess Championships Visayas leg at SM City-Cebu.

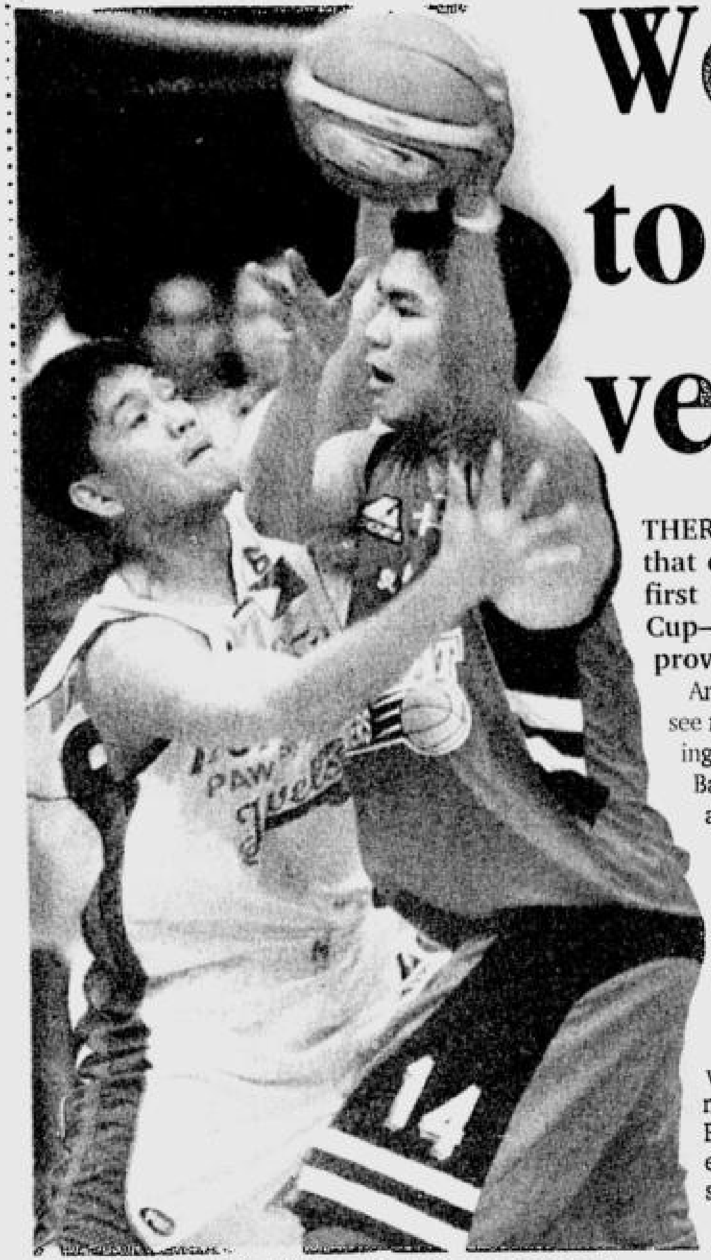
Like the inaugural leg held in Manila and the second leg in Davao, the tournament sponsored by Filway Marketing president/CEO Hector Tagaysay is divided into the Open, Women's, Boys 12-under and Girls 12-under divisions.

The tournament offers P30,000 to the Open champion, P10,000 to the Women's champion and P4,000 each to the Boys 12-under and Girls 12-under champions.

Also joining are GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano II, and Woman International Master Beverly Mendoza, Filway/Time Life Davao leg champ IM Idelfonso Datu, Atty. Borjal memorial open titlist IM Richard Bitoon, IM Barlo Nadera and NMs Mario Rebano, Oliver Barbosa, Elwin Retanal and Felix Corate.

Call NCFP Committee chair Wilfredo "Willie" Abalos at 0921-621-9898 and Sunstar Cebu sports editor Giovanni Tabada at 0918-671-4464 for details. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Welcoat tries to bounce back versus Bacchus



LEO Najorda (right) of Welcoat looks for an open pass against Paul Guerrero of Montana.
RUDY ESPERAS

THERE was one positive thing that came out of Welcoat Paints' first loss in the PBL Unity Cup—new recruit Paolo Orbeta proved to be a clutch player.

And the Paintmasters certainly hope to see more of his impressive quarterbacking when they battle the struggling Bacchus Energy King at 2 p.m. today at the St. Placid Gym in San Beda.

Orbeta buried a three-pointer with nine-tenths of a second remaining to force overtime in Welcoat's heartbreaking 88-86 loss against Montaña Pawnshop last Tuesday.

The St. Benilde playmaker almost forced another extra period when he scored on a layup in the final seven seconds, but Froilan Baguion wrapped it up for the Jewels by nailing a jumper with barely a second left.

Nenaco-San Beda also found a surprise package in rookie Noy Javier last Saturday. And the University of Perpetual Help shooter will try to give the Lions their first win against the skidding Granny Goose at 4 p.m.

Javier, a former member of the Cebuana Lhuillier-RP team, debúted with a team-high 21 points, including 12 from beyond the arc.

Along with Yousif Aljamal and Jerome Paterno, Javier gave the the Lions a fighting chance against Harbour Centre, before the Portmasters pulled away in the final minutes for a 79-63 win.

Granny Goose, which finished fourth in the last conference, will try to halt its alarming three-game slide with RJ Quiñahan and Jett Latonio at the helm.

Montaña leads with a 4-0 slate, while Welcoat dropped into a tie with Harbour Centre for second place at 3-1.

The Paintmasters are favored to get back on the winning track with Fil-Am sensation Anthony Washington, Leo Najorda, Marvin Ortiguerra and Jay-A Coching.

The Energy Kings, who are coming off a 78-70 setback against Toyota Otis, will again bank on Paolo Hubalde and Mike Holper. *Jasmine W. Payo*

JASH grabs overall lead in MYG

LED BY a 13-year-old gymnastics wonder, District 3's Jose Abad Santos High collected 10 gold medals yesterday to take the lead in the race for the overall title in the 4th Manila Youth Games at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Mage Wagan pocketed five gold medals, winning the rope (19.38), hoop (19.58), ball (19.35), ribbon (19.51) and individual all-around (77.52) events in the level 3 13-15 category.

Jean Caluscusin also chipped in four golds for JASH after topping the rope (14.11), hoop (12.00), ball (13.56) and individual all-around (39.67) events level 1.

Abad Santos also bagged the team championship and boosted its overall medal haul to 16 golds, five silvers and five bronzes.

Barrio Obrero Elementary held second place overall with a 12-4-4 medal tally, followed by A.C. Herrera with 8-12-10. Opening-day leader Tondo High dropped to fourth place (8-7-3).

Dr. Albert Elementary bested Lakandula Elementary, 4-2, to cop the 10-under football title. San Beda A nipped San Beda B, 2-1 for the 15-under title at Luneta park. Marc Anthony Reyes

Closing birdie gives Asistio tie with Yee

TONTON Asistio birdied the last hole for a four-under-par 68 and a two-shot swing that pulled him into a tie with Mico Yee after the second round of the Samsung Jungolf Tour's Junior World qualifying tournament at the Canlubang north course.

Two behind after Yee birdied the 16th and 17th, Asistio nailed that birdie against the bogey of Yee that led him to a three-over 75 as the Southwoods. teammates wound up at 143 through 36 holes of the grueling 108-qualifier.

Lurking behind at 145 was Matthew Manotoc who remained steady with his 72.

Reigning Junior World 7-8 years champ JR Gonzales continued to surprise his older rivals in boys Class D, drawing level with Bino dela Paz (69) after a 65-134, while multi-titled Miguel Tabuena (65-138) bounced back after suffering from a bum stomach in the first round.

Adrian Woo of Cebu, carding another 78, held on to a three-shot edge over Jik Jik Abdon in boys Class B, 156-159.

Siblings Wolen and Princess Superal, Regan de Guzman and former Junior World titlist Dottie Ardina widened their leads in the tourney also supported by Philippine Airlines and Unilever/Selecta.

Superal streaked ahead by 11 in boys Class C with his 75-147, De Guzman pulled away by nine in girls Class B with her 73-146 and Ardina, scoring a 76, padded her lead to eight in the girls Class C play.

At the Riviera executive course, Princess Superal (68-132) is poised for an easy win as she extended her lead to 30 strokes in girls Class E. In the boys division, AR Ramos moved up by six over Miggy Yee.

Ryan Monsalve and Abby Arevalo had leads of 21 and nine strokes, respectively, in the Class F division.

RC Makati holds golf tourney for charity

THE ROTARY Club of Makati Dasmariñas, District 3830, will hold a golf tournament tomorrow at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club.

Dubbed as the "1st Annual Cool Dudes and Hot Babes Golf Tournament," this event is being held to raise funds for several of RCMD's socio-civic undertakings. Tee-off time is 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

RCMD centennial president, orthodontist Ma. Jocelyn Tan, expects a lot of participants and hopes that RCMD can generate funds for its projects, such as the construction of classrooms at Bo. Bagbag, Rosario, Cavite; its Anti-TB program, also at Bo. Bagbag; its Manggahan, Pasig feeding program for malnourished children; and its medical and dental missions in depressed areas.

"We hope to have 80-100 golfers whose participation will go a long way in making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate members of our society," said Tan.

Major sponsors of the tournament include Duty Free Philippines, Globe Telecoms, San Miguel Corp., Jabez Motor Corp. and Sherwood Hills Golf Club.

Tickets are priced at P2,000, inclusive of green fee, lunch, giveaways and raffle prizes. Golfers will not only vie for the coveted overall champion trophy, but also for a chance to win the hole-in-one prize, a 2005 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 GLS Automatic sponsored by Jabez Motor Corp.

SPORTSWATCH

SM Cebu holds taekwondo event

CEBUANOS get the chance to showcase their stuff in taekwondo when action in the ongoing Summer Sports at SM malls resumes this weekend (April 23-24) at SM-Cebu. A huge field is expected to vie for top honors in various divisions in the two-day event, launched last year by SM in cooperation with JVC and Globe. The tour also features competitions in wushu, football and climbing on top of the ongoing JVC Badminton Junior Championships. Wushu will be played at SM-Manila while football, backed by Mikasa, Alaska, Jack N' Jill Nova, C2 Green Tea and refresh flavored drink, is set at SM-Megamall.

MBT inaugural meet lures 26 teams

A GROUP of sports-minded individuals have formed the MBT (Metro Basketball Tournament). With 26 teams on its roster, the MBT under commissioner Nilo C. Fernandez launched its inaugural season at the Metro gym in Mandaluyong City recently. Dubbed the MBT First Conference, the 26 participating teams have been divided into: Group A—Wang's Ballclub, Team FLYZ, Homer, STI College, Friomixx, De Ocampo, United Oil and PGA Cars. Group B—Royal Manchester Five, Far Eastern Insurance, Ablaza, Toprite Plastic, Plainview, Chemtek, Nova, Premier THX and Banker's Plaza Group C—Nissan North Edsa, BBOIZ, Couples for Christ, Winterpine, Eyes3D, Metro Auto, Puyat Vinyl, Central and Torsten Calvi. Call MBT at 6367638 or Charlie Lim at Metro Gym at 7461815 to 16.

PPI Forum tackles 2005 SEA Games

THE PHILIPPINE Press Institute will hold its 9th National Press Forum tomorrow at the Manila Diamond Hotel with the 2005 Southeast Asian Games as theme. Guest speakers are Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee chair Obet Pagdanganan and former Asian sprint queen Lydia de Vega-Mercado, who will represent the Filipino athletes.

ADZUMMA tournament at Valley

THE 2005 ONE-DAY golf tournament organized by the Ateneo de Zamboanga University Metro Manila Alumni Association (ADZUMMA) kicks off tomorrow at the Executive course of Valley Golf Country Club, Antipolo City. About 120 participants are expected to compete in the tourney with beautiful trophies at stake. There will also be full prizes, giveaways and an array of goodies for the winning ticket stubs. Tournament fee is P2,500, inclusive of green fee, lunch and snacks. Tee-off starts at 6:30 a.m. For inquiries, call, Jaime Panganiban, 8150034; Guess Boroja, 7267830; Fred Suarez, 8753134 and Secretariat, Precious Yu at 9269046.

NCA 7-cock derby begins April 26

QUALITY fights resume at the Araneta Coliseum on April 26 and 28 with the staging of the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7 – Cock Derby. This event will be the third NCA-sanctioned cockfest for April, according to NCA president Ito Ynares, who will host the event with Rep. Claude Bautista of Davao. Expected to be installed as top favorite is the Wild Wing Sundance of Rep. Ronnie Puno and noted breeder Boy Jiao, owing to it's spectacular performance recently. Wild Wing Sundance was back-to-back champion in two NCA derbies last April 5-7 and April 12 and 14. NCA is supporting 16 scholars (four at UP Los Baños and 12 at Miriam Academy).

Bullstag championship round today

WITH 136 fights lined-up, the blockbuster "NFGB National 7 – Bullstag Derby" championship round is expected to draw another huge crowd at the Araneta Coliseum beginning at 10 a.m. today. From a field of 148 entries, 68 qualified for the final round, according to Ricoy Palmares, president of the organizing National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders. Among the entries with three wins each are those of hotelier Biboy Enriquez, two–time world champ William Go, Lino Pallarca, Jun Sevilla, Poch Gabriel, Arman Santos, Marcel Julao, James Uy, Manuel Lui and Jun Dasig. For details, call 911- 2928 and 911- 3101.

Sweater crosses top Macabebe derby

AGONCILLO, Batangas' pride Arthur Mendoza (Golden Warrior Farm) proved that he's a breeder to watch after his famed Sweater crosses ruled the recent Special 4-Cock Derby at the Van-Eric Cockpit in Macabebe, Pampanga. Lording it over 52 other entries, Mendoza's entry was bankrolled by Danny Espinosa. Mendoza also emerged champion in a 4-stag event at the Candelaria Cockpit in Quezon. Last April 2, he finished with three wins and one loss in a 4-cocker in Taal.

SUPERKID SOARS—Rafael "Raprap" Enriquez, the Superkid of Motocross, ruled the 50cc and 65cc categories in the 22nd Leg of the Cebu Boardwalk Motocross Series held recently in Mandaue City. The 9-year-old Enriquez, sponsored by Philippine Airlines and Dickies, topped the first and second heats of both events. The 2004 50cc FIM Asian Motocross champion and current leader of the 50cc National Motocross Series will compete in the 1st BMW Cup Motocross Series on May 8, 11 and 14 at the Clark Eagles raceway in Angeles City.

Applauding Peping

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THIRTY years later, they are back into each other's arms again. Indeed, time heals all wounds.

Oh, well, the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) and Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) had been tangoing, sort of, all these years. But only in one major endeavor, though: the Asian Games.

It began in 1990, when Robert Jaworski coached an all-PBA team to second place in the Asian Games. That was the best finish in four Asian Games stints for a national quintet in the quadrennial Asiad since the breakaway PBA bolted the amateur basketball backyard that is the BAP in 1975.

The PBA, to those not still in the know, was conceived to break free from the BAP's tyrannical grip on basketball affairs. Being a professional league, the PBA totally freed itself from the clutches of the BAP, beginning with its first game on April 9, 1975 at the Araneta Coliseum.

But the times, they are a-changin'.

Under the no-nonsense leadership of Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the Philippine Olympic Committee has put its foot down and ordered the dismantling of the national team preparing for the SEA Games that we will host in November.

It was the swiftest action ever done in recent memory by the nation's supreme court in sports.

When was the last time we saw such decisive verdict from the country's father of the Olympic movement?

I can only applaud.

The move immediately put into perspective Peping's brand of administration: He doesn't dilly-dally.

Other NSAs in a state of disarray had better think twice now and give a second look at the handwriting on the wall: Peping means business.

Truly, basketball, being the country's main pastime, should always be the concern of all.

We can lose all the SEA Games gold medals at stake but never the basketball gold.

Thus, Peping did only what was necessary: Do everything to literally secure the men's basketball gold in the SEA Games.

We really can't afford to lose it, especially in our own turf. That'd be national suicide.

Peping dismantling the RP Team not worthy of its calling was the first step to building a new one. And there couldn't be any better team tapped for the SEA Games mission than the one thoroughly sprinkled with PBA players.

Let the farce end and make Peping begin the reconstruction process.

Next to Peping, the applauding should go to PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

Eala it was who immediately offered PBA players to beef up the SEA Games-bound quintet amid the recent shameful debacle suffered by the RP Team at the hands of a Parañaque squad headed by actor Richard Gomez and comedian cum vice mayor Anjo Yllana.

It would not have mattered, much less hurt, had the game been a mere exhibition. But no. It was a regular bill in the ongoing NBC caging, a tournament of national significance.

To be honest, I would not have minded if, right after the game, the RP Team had been jettisoned and its place, to pursue the SEA Games quest, taken by the Parañaque crew of Richard and Anjo, whom they called The Jets.

Not only are we concerned over the SEA Games mission. Also a prime concern is our Seaba campaign this June, a qualifier for the ABC in Qatar this September.

The ABC, to the uninitiated, is still the premiere basketball tournament in Asia that we used to dominate from the Sixties to the Seventies. The last time we won it using full-fledged Filipinos was in 1973, right here in Manila, with the late Tito Eduque as coach.

We have a strong chance of winning the Seaba event if we field a team decorated by PBA players. And from Seaba, topping the ABC isn't far-fetched, either. From now to September is a good six months. Plenty of time to prepare.

To Peping, therefore, go for it. With your unprecedented achievement of finally uniting key differing forces, you have accomplished half of the mission already.

I can almost see it: To come after the applause will be coronation.

Cavs still alive

Stay in playoff race with Nets

CLEVELAND—LeBron James and Robert Traylor made sure their team would play at least one more meaningful game, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers past the Boston Celtics 100-86 Tuesday night.

James had 32 points, eight rebounds and six assists, while Traylor came off the bench to score a career-high 22 points and Eric Snow added a season-high 13 assists for the Cavs (41-40), who remained tied with New Jersey for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"We took care of business," said James, who scored a career-high 56 points on his last visit to Toronto. "We're going to need some help. Hopefully, Boston plays as hard as they did against us and gets a win."

The Nets own the tiebreaker over the Cleveland, which closed the game with a 10-0 run as the Celtics did not use their best players.

"We've got a chance," Traylor said. "That's about all we can ask for. We put ourselves in this hole."

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jason Kidd had a season-high 35 points, eight assists and eight rebounds, and New Jersey edged Washington, 109-101, to keep control of its own playoff destiny.

The win was the 14th in 18 games for the Nets (41-40), who can clinch the NBA's final playoff berth in one of two ways—by beating the Celtics in Boston on Wednesday, or having Cavaliers lose at Toronto.

New Jersey could earn the No. 7 seed with a win at Boston and a loss by Philadelphia at home against Atlanta.

Vince Carter added 26 points and nine assists and Brian Scalabrine had 13 points for New Jersey, which shot nearly 49 percent in beating Washington for the first time in four games this season.

Washington's loss meant it surrendered the homecourt edge in its playoff battle against the Chicago Bulls, which sewed up the No. 4 spot with a 92-91 victory over the New York Knicks.

Meanwhile, in other NBA games, Detroit crushed Atlanta, 95-68; Miami blasted Charlotte, 99-90; Toronto creamed Milwaukee, 127-109; Dallas tripped Seattle, 101-96 and Denver edged Portland, 119-115. *AP*

Manila beats Pangasinan

RUBY Merces led Manila to a 5-1 victory over Pangasinan in the Touch Mobile 9-Ball Champions League at the SM Supermall activity area in Batangas City on Monday. Merces' victory over Kriger Gapud made Manila as one of the teams to root for in this event organized by Rocketman Enterprises Inc. and backed up by Touch Mobile, Brunswjck, Acceland SM Supermalls. Eric Sandoval provided Merces with support, beating Carlo Biado to the delight of Team Manila manager Ali Atienza. The avent, put up by Rocketman's Ramon Tuason, was played using the race-to-five, doubles play format.

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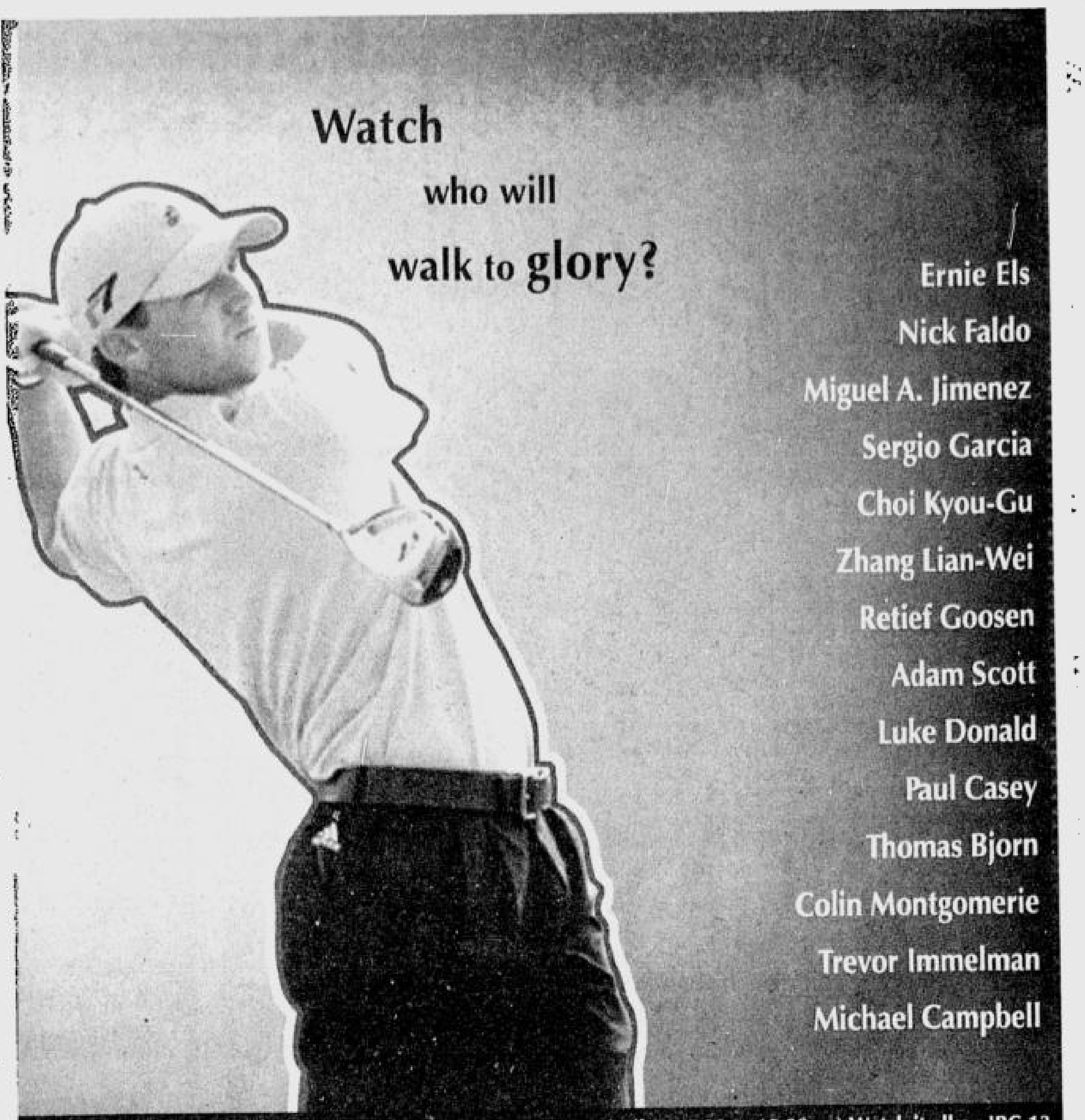

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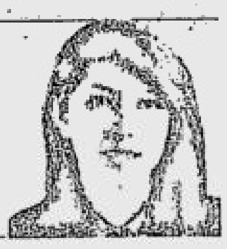
All systems go for FAP awards—or is it?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



IT'S ALL systems go for the 23rd Film Academy Awards of the Philippines on May 14 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

I remember when my mom's production outfit (the defunct LOCA Productions) used to mount the FAP Awards. I saw how hard my mom and her staff worked to make sure that our local version of the Oscars would be nothing short of spectacular.

It saddens me to hear of alleged anomalies within the FAP. Hopefully the rumors will die a natural death. But we can't bury issues if they are unresolved.

Is there really some major glitch? I received this from the concerned friend of an insider:

Dear Ms Dolly,

I have some questions about the forthcoming FAP Awards.

First, in their nomination for Best Actress, why isn't **Vilma Santos** included? The FAP website says there are 11 citations in said category but 10 only are mentioned. How could they have overlooked Ate Vi?

Second, the statuette contest won by LUNA is dubious.

Also, **Albert Martinez** is again producer of the awards rites. Last year he promised to pay FAP P500,000 but he gave only P250,000.

Most of the guilds that make up the academy, like the Directors' Guild, hardly have members, and are not registered with the SEC (or their registrations have expired). Where do these guilds' allowances go?

What about the livelihood project that run in the hundreds of thousands? Only those close to the members benefit from it.

When the FAP constructed their website, they hired technical persons whom they paid P50,000 a month, and three students at P500 a day. The FAP also has a pending case with the former contractor, whom it owes big bucks.

And the scriptwriting contest? Total cash prize is P1 million! And their so-called workshops always have such big budgets. Have any of these produced a single promising participant?

Look into the FAP commemorative plate, too. They can't sell those plates worth P500,000. And they engage in pyramiding, which they claim is a livelihood project. That's where the money of the government goes—a big waste.

They should make FAP non-government.

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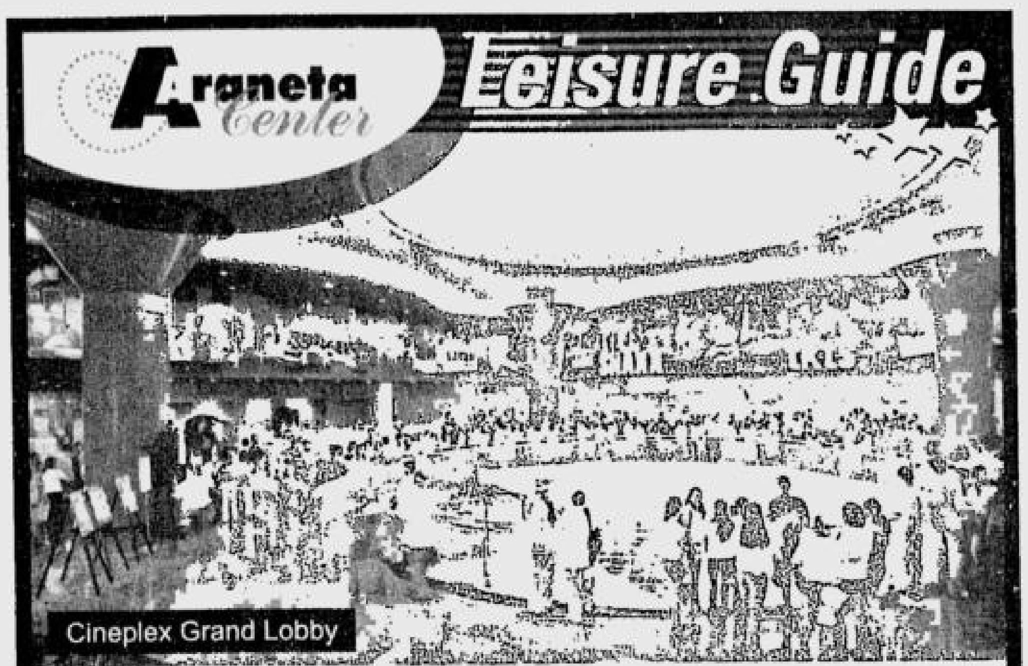

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5	RESERVED

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(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	PARAISO
2	ONG BAK
3	THE JACKET

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	PARAISO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	SAHARA
5	OK KA PARE KO

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	PARAISO
2	SAHARA
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	RING OF NIBELUNG
6	THE JACKET

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	GYMKWANDO
2	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	WEDDING DATE
2 (SDDS)	SAHARA
3 (DTS)	THE INTERPRETER
4 GOLD (DTS)	GUESS WHO
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	RING OF NIBELUNG
6 GOLD (SDDS)	PACIFIER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE INTERPRETER
8	THE SPONGEBOB
9	FINDING NEVERLAND
10	THE JACKET

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THE INTERPRETER
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RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
WEDDING DATE
SAHARA
SAMARA RING 2
FINDING NEVERLAND
THE PACIFIER

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1	THE INTERPRETER
2	WEDDING DATE
3	GUESS WHO
4	OK KA, PARE KO
5	SAHARA

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PARAISO
2	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
3	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4	RESERVED

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RING OF NIBELUNG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BOGGY MAN
2	ONG BAK
3 (DTS EX)	BE COOL
4	SPONGEBOB

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	BOGGY MAN
2	ONG BAK
3 (DOLBY)	BE COOL
4 (DTS)	SPONGEBOB

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	CLOSER
2	HOSTAGE
3 (DOLBY)	CURSED
4 (DTS)	CLOSER

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HOSTAGE
2	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	WEDDING DATE
2 (DOLBY)	INTERPRETER
3 (DOLBY)	GUESS WHO
4 (DOLBY)	THE JACKET

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ONG BAK
2 (DTS)	PACIFIER
3 (DOLBY)	HIDE AND SEEK
4	ALONE IN THE DARK

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ONG BAK
2 (DOLBY)	PACIFIER
3 (DTS)	HIDE AND SEEK
4	ALONE IN THE DARK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	CLOSER
2	CURSED
3 (DOLBY)	CONFIDENCE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	MISS CONGENIALITY
2	HOSTAGE
3 (DOLBY)	PACIFIER
4 (DTS)	CONFIDENCE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795 3320

1	ONG BAK
2	SAMARA (RING - 2)
3 (DOLBY)	HIDE AND SEEK

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	GYMKWANDO
2	PARAISO
3	ALIPIN
4 (DTS)	

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	GYMKWANDO
2	ALONE IN THE DARK
3 (DTS)	ONG BAK
4	GRO
5	HIDE AND SEEK

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	CLOSER
2	ALONE IN THE DARK
3 (DTS)	HIDE AND SEEK
4 (DOLBY)	MISS CONGENIALITY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

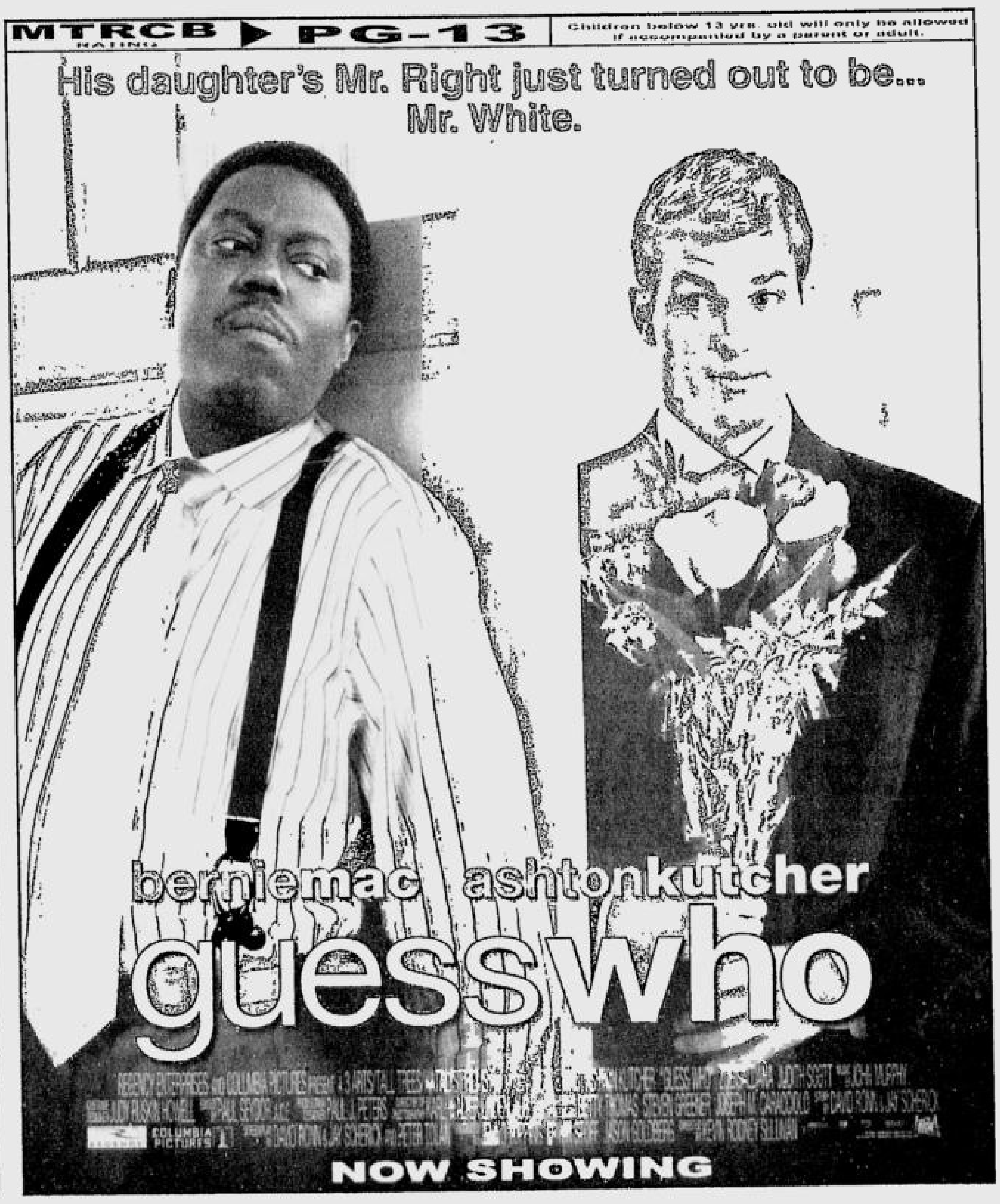
1	HOSTAGE
2	PACIFIER
3	SAHARA (RING - 2)
4	BE COOL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PARAISO
2	OK KA PARE KO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



His daughter's Mr. Right just turned out to be... Mr. White.
berniemac ashtonkutcher
guesswho
COLUMBIA PICTURES
NOW SHOWING

People in the FAP are only after the funds.

Imagine, per diem for a board meeting is P2,500! And the directors get midyear and Christmas bonuses.

Many excellent industry workers are not members of the FAP. For instance, **Chito Rono** and **Joel Lamangan** belong to the Director's Guild of the Philippines, which is not part of the FAP. I think the group that Lamangan put up, a private organization, is better. It does not get financial help from the government.

I've long wanted to expose this, but I wanted to protect my friend, who's connected with the FAP. I feel the time is right now 'cause the movie industry is dying.

(Name withheld upon request)

FAP president replies

Let's hear it from **Leo Martinez**, FAP director-general:

1) Vilma Santos is one of five nominees. Voting is on May 11, awards on May 14. That was just an error in publishing, which we immediately corrected.

2) LUNA won the statuette contest, that's why the FAP awards are now called LUNA awards.

3) Albert Martinez is producer again because last year's proceedings turned out great. Albert lost money in last year's production ... he asked the board to lower the fee to P250,000.

4) All the guilds are autonomous. Each one gets P5,000 a month as subsidy. The FAP is a beneficiary of the Metro Manila Film Festival.

5) **Jesse Ejercito**, deputy director general, is in charge of the Web page. The salary structure was in place when I came in. Not all the officers earn P20,000.

6) The livelihood program is legitimate and well-planned. We won't get into anything [that looks like] a pyramiding scheme.

7) The Web page technical person is paid P5,000 a month. The staff are OJT trainees who get P200 a day. We make it a point to settle all our debts.

8) Screenplay at storyline *ang pa*-contest ng FAP. Three winners get P200,000 each for screenplay, five winners at P50,000 each for storyline. There are consolation prizes. Announcement of winners is on awards night.

9) Many have bought the FAP commemorative plates and orders are still pouring in.

10) FAP was created in accordance with Executive Order 640-A in 1981 ... to give recognition to outstanding Filipino movies every year, provide education for the guild members and be an instrument for unity among workers of the local movie industry.

ALL SMILES at the news conference. REUTERS

Martha Stewart Living Radio

NEW YORK—Six weeks after being released from federal prison, Martha Stewart has cut a deal with Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. to create a 24-hour channel featuring cooking, gardening and entertainment for women.

The four-year agreement announced Monday marks Stewart's latest move to rebuild her business after serving time for lying to the government about a stock sale.

Stewart, who has parlayed her success at homemaking advice into a magazine, TV show and merchandising empire, has dabbled in radio work before, making 90-second "Ask Martha" radio segments.

Sob story

At a news conference, Stewart said her family was the last in her neighborhood to get a television set.

"I was raised on the radio," Stewart said.

The channel is expected to launch later this year, after a legal restriction on Stewart's ability to work is lifted.

Stewart is currently serving five months of house arrest at her sprawling Westchester County estate, north of New York City. *AP*

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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 WEDDING DATE
11:10, 1:30, 3:50
6:10, 8:30, 10:50
PG-13

2 THE INTERPRETER
PLEASE CALL
FOR SCREENING TIME
PG-13

3 GUESS WHO?
12:35, 3:10, 5:45
8:20, 10:50
PG-13

4 THE JACKET
PLEASE CALL
FOR SCREENING TIME

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CINEMA 1 GUESS WHO
10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
PG13

CINEMA 2 THE INTERPRETER
10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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April 29 2005 LITO CAMO 8:30PM
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SHANG CINEPLEX

① THE INTERPRETER
MTRCB. PG-13
10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

② GUESS WHO
MTRCB. PG-13
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

③ WEDDING DATE
MTRCB. PG-13
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

④ SAHARA
MTRCB: PG-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
MTRCB. PG-13 12:40, 3.30, 6.20, 9:10
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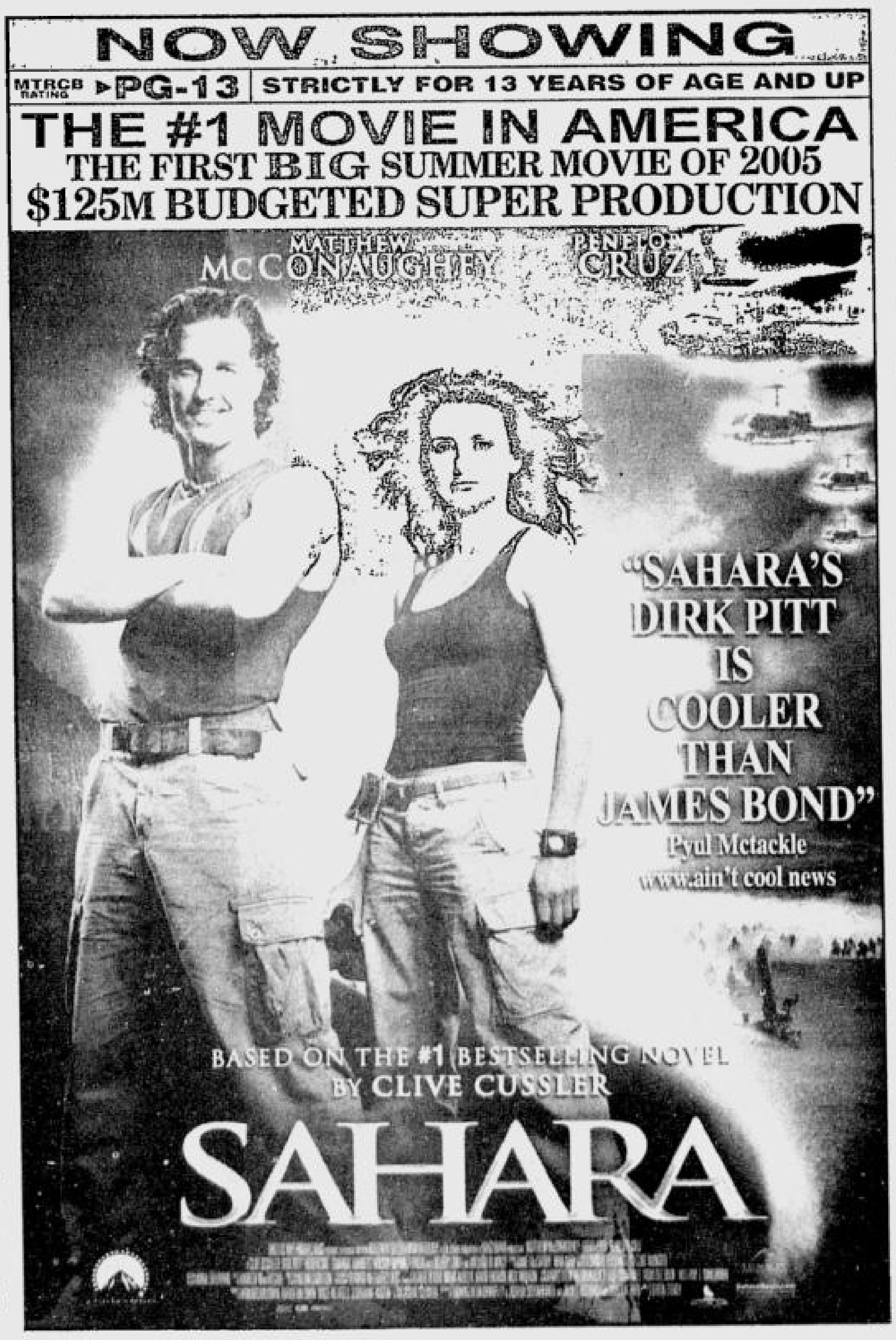
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SAHARA

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RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

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• Cebu • Megamall

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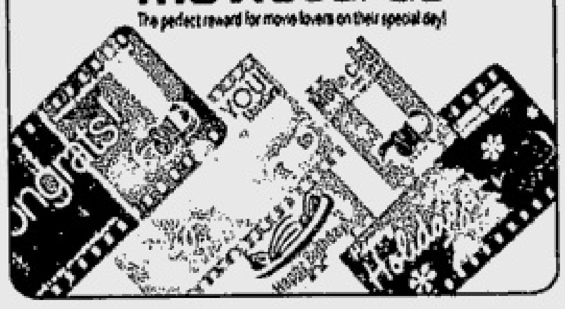

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema
1. THE INTERPRETER
11:40 FS / 12:10 MF / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
10:20 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 1:50 END
2. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11:25 FS / 11:55 MF / 2.40 / 5.25
8:10 / 10:25 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 1:05 END
☎ 633-8978

sm megamall cinema 1
SAMARA: RING 2
11:50 FS / 12.20 MF / 2.40 / 5:00
7:20 / 9:10 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:30 END
☎ 633-1901

sm cebu cinema
CINEMA 1: THE PACIFIER
11:00 MF / 12:45 / 2:30 / 4:15 / 6:00
7:45 / 9:20 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:05 END
CINEMA 3: BE COOL
11:00 MF / 1:06 / 3:12 / 5.18 / 7.24
9:23 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:30 END
☎ (032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 SAHARA
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 THE JACKET
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 FINDING NEVERLAND
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11 GUESS WHO
12 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city fairview
1 GUESS WHO
2 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 THE JACKET
6 SAHARA
7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
8 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 FINDING NEVERLAND
11 THE PACIFIER
12 OK KA PARE KO

sm city north edsa
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 THE INTERPRETER
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
7 GUESS WHO
8 THE JACKET

sm city manila
1 SAHARA
2 THE INTERPRETER
3 FINDING NEVERLAND
4 GUESS WHO
5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 OK KA PARE KO
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 THE PACIFIER
11 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
12 THE JACKET

sm city sta. mesa
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 GUESS WHO
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 OK KA PARE KO
7 SAMARA: RING 2
8 SAHARA
9 THE WEDDING DATE
10 THE JACKET

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 OK KA PARE KO
6 THE EDDING DATE
7 THE JACKET
8 SAMARA: RING 2
9 SAHARA
10 GUESS WHO

sm city bicutan
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 SAMARA: RING 2
4 GUESS WHO

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 GUESS WHO
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 BE COOL
4 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 THE PACIFIER

sm city baguio
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 CURSED
3 THE PACIFIER
4 CLOSER

sm city batangas
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
4 BE COOL

sm city dasmariñas
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 SAMARA: RING 2
4 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

sm city marilao
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 CLOSER
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city bacoor
1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
4 SAMARA: RING 2
5 SAHARA
6 GUESS WHO
7 THE PACIFIER
8 OK KA PARE KO

sm city lucena
1 CURSED
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 CLOSER
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 THE PACIFIER
2 RESERVED
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
5 CLOSER
6 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
7 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
8 SAHARA

sm city iloilo
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 RESERVED
3 BE COOL
4 THE PACIFIER
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 RESERVED
8 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city davao
1 THE PACIFIER
2 SAHARA
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 HOSTAGE
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 HIDE AND SEEK

sm city cagayan de oro
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 THE PACIFIER
3 BE COOL
4 SAMARA: RING 2

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 GUESS WHO? • THX
2 THE RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 THE JACKET
4 SAHARA
5 THE INTERPRETER
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 PARAISO
8 BOSO
9 SAMARA RING 2
10 THE PACIFIER

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE INTERPRETER
2 SAHARA
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 THE JACKET
5 GUESS WHO?
6 BOSO
7 THE WEDDING DATE

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 SAHARA
3 SAMARA RING 2
4 PARAISO
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 THE JACKET
7 GUESS WHO?
8 THE INTERPRETER

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 THE INTERPRETER
2 THE JACKET
3 SAMARA RING 2
4 SAHARA
5 GUESS WHO?
6 PARAISO
7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE INTERPRETER
2 GUESS WHO?
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 PARAISO
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ASTERIX AND OBELIX

CAINTA 240-4661

1 THE INTERPRETER
2 SAHARA
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 GUESS WHO?

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VERSUS CAESAR

Asterix & Obelix VERSUS CAESAR

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1 SAHARA
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE PACIFIER
4 ONG BAK
5 ALONE IN THE DARK

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1 SAMARA RING 2
2 BE COOL
3 HOSTAGE
4 CLOSER
5 BIRTH

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 PARAISO
2 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
3 PELUKANG ITIM
4 BUNSHINSABA
5 HIDE AND SEEK

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 ONG BAK
3 BE COOL
4 BOOGEYMAN

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 OK, KA PARE KO
2 ONG BAK
3 PARAISO
4 GUESS WHO?
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 SAHARA

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 981-5270

1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 ONG BAK
3 THE PACIFIER
4 BE COOL
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 BE COOL
2 THE PACIFIER
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 CONFIDENCE
5 CURSED
6 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 THE PACIFIER
3 ALONE IN THE DARK
4 SAMARA RING 2
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

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AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS THX

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE JACKET	2 GUESS WHO	3 THE WEDDING DATE	4 THE INTERPRETER			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE JACKET	2 THE WEDDING DATE	3 THX THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SAHARA	5 RING OF NIBELUNGS	6 GUESS WHO	7 SAMARA (RING 2)
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE INTERPRETER	2 GUESS WHO					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX GUESS WHO GUARANTEED SEATS	3 FINDING NEVERLAND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE WEDDING DATE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE JACKET GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX GUESS WHO	2 THE INTERPRETER	3 THE JACKET	4 RING OF NIBELUNGS	5 THE WEDDING DATE		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HIDE & SEEK	2 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS	3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	4 CLOSER			

AYALA CINEMAS

OPENS APRIL 27 AT AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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Veritable rogues' gallery of villains in 'Sahara'

"SAHARA" isn't "Indiana Jones," the seminal action flick on which it's obviously been patterned, but it does have its moments of excitement and high adventure. For his part, male lead player **Matthew MacConnaughey** is no **Harrison Ford**, but he keeps his character's capers sassily interesting. That isn't such a bad deal, is it?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

What eventually causes the production to bog down is its inability to make new sense out of its borrowed elements. "Inspiration" is OK, but you'd better breathe new life into the elements you've borrowed, or else your movie wouldn't come into its own.

In the film, **Penelope Cruz** plays a doctor working in Nigeria for the World Health Organization. She sees signs of a deadly plague in the making, and tries to nip it in the bud.

She traces the plague's roots to Mali and wants to go there, but she's dissuaded from doing so because that area is in the grips of revolutionary conflict. Nevertheless, she throws caution to the wind, and goes where she knows she's needed.

Thank goodness, she finds an ally in MacConnaughey's character, a brash, brusque treasure hunter who turns out to have a soft spot for ladies in distress. Well, he and the lady doctor get much more trouble than they've bargained for, and have their work cut out for them just staying alive.

They're constantly running away from danger because they have to contend with a veritable rogues' gallery of villains—a cruel and corrupt military dictator and his troops, a filthy-rich wheeler-dealer, initially antagonistic, rebels, rival bounty hunters, etc.

Action highlights include a thrilling boat chase, "sailing" the wreck of an old plane on the desert, finding an old US military vessel buried deep in sand, uncovering a king's ransom in gold coins, stumbling across a secret nuclear waste-disposal facility in the desert, and a fight to the death on an exceedingly high tower.

MacConnaughey and his goofy sidekick deal with these tests of strength and agility well enough, and Penelope Cruz does her best to keep up with them in the stunts department. On point of screen charisma, however, she rates poorly, and MacConnaughey pretty much dominates the movie from start to finish.

'La Visa Loca'

UNITEL'S new production, "La Visa Loca," topbills **Robin Padilla** in an unconventional role. He plays a Pinoy "everyman" whose major goal in life is to get a US visa, despite the many rejections and frustrations involved.

Robin's co-stars, **Rufa Mae Quinto** and **Johnny Delgado**, deliver noteworthy performances in the contemporary satire written and directed by **Mark Meily**, whose "Crying Ladies" two Metro filmfest ago made him the new golden boy on the Filipino filmmaking scene.

The film hits theaters on May 25. No less than Megastar **Sharon Cuneta** is the movie's executive producer—no kidding!

Bad reviews of great films

AT A RECENT film forum, a participant asked us, "Which reviews of a film should we believe? Reviewers can't seem to agree anymore which movie is good, and which is bad?"

Well, we replied, let *your* best judgment be your guide. Let a reviewer's past critiques be his "audition" for you. If you found them credible, then choose to believe him over others who have failed to live up to your expectations in the past.

That's not an easy thing to discern, we know. Because, truth to tell, even the finest movies received some negative reviews when they were first screened. Those downbeat reviewers can't live down their flawed critiques, of course, and they continue to hound and haunt them through the years and decades. Tomorrow, some cockeyed examples.

SAMANTHA'S BACK
Singer Samantha Chavez "disappeared" after winning the grand prize at the 1994 Midnight Sun Song Festival in Lahti, Finland. She's back with a new self-titled album of 12 inspirational songs. She couldn't be happier, she says.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
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SAHARA PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20	GUESS WHO PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15	RING OF THE NIBELUNGS PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20
WEDDING DATE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	THE JACKET PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	THE INTERPRETER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide
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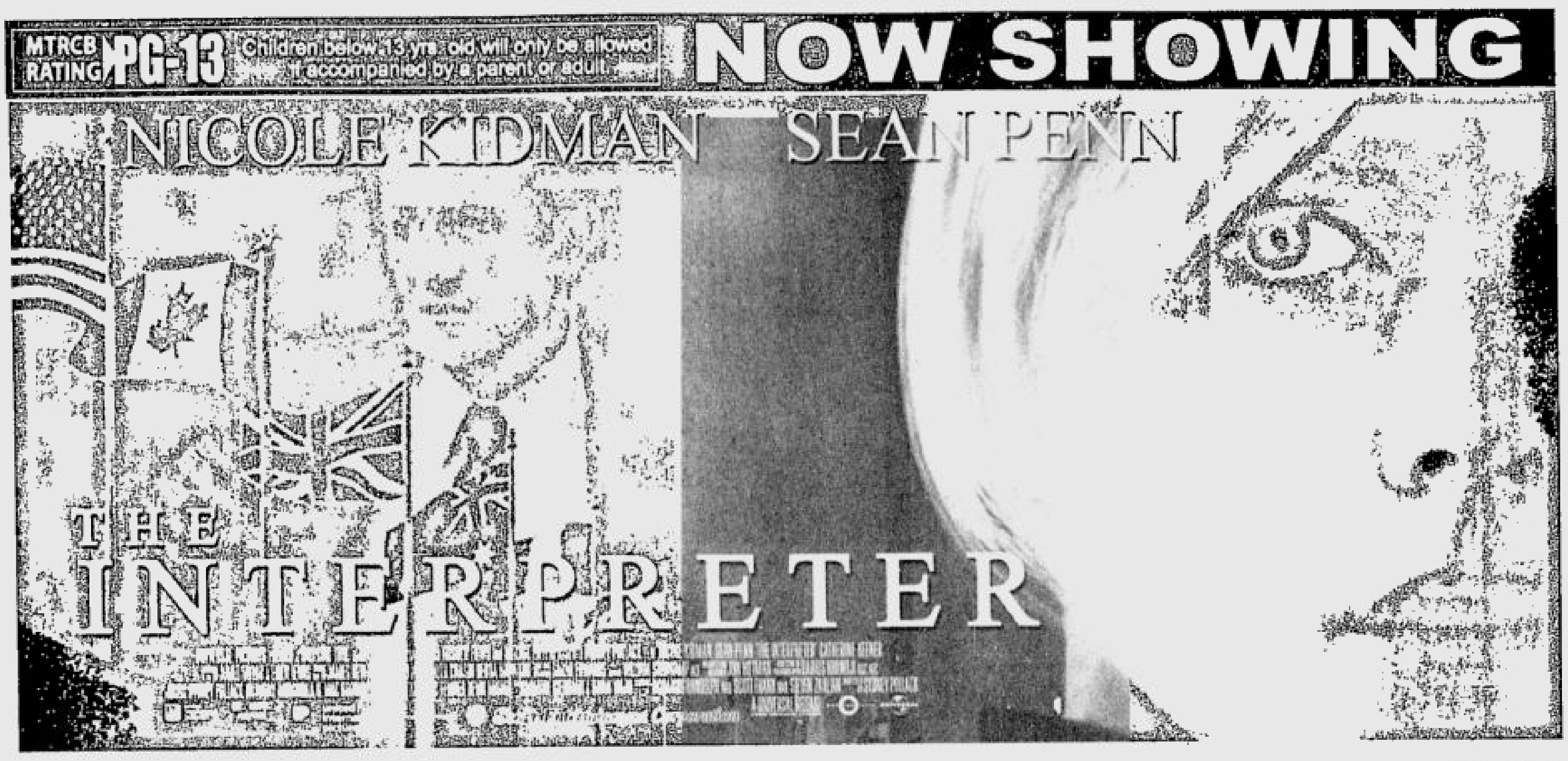
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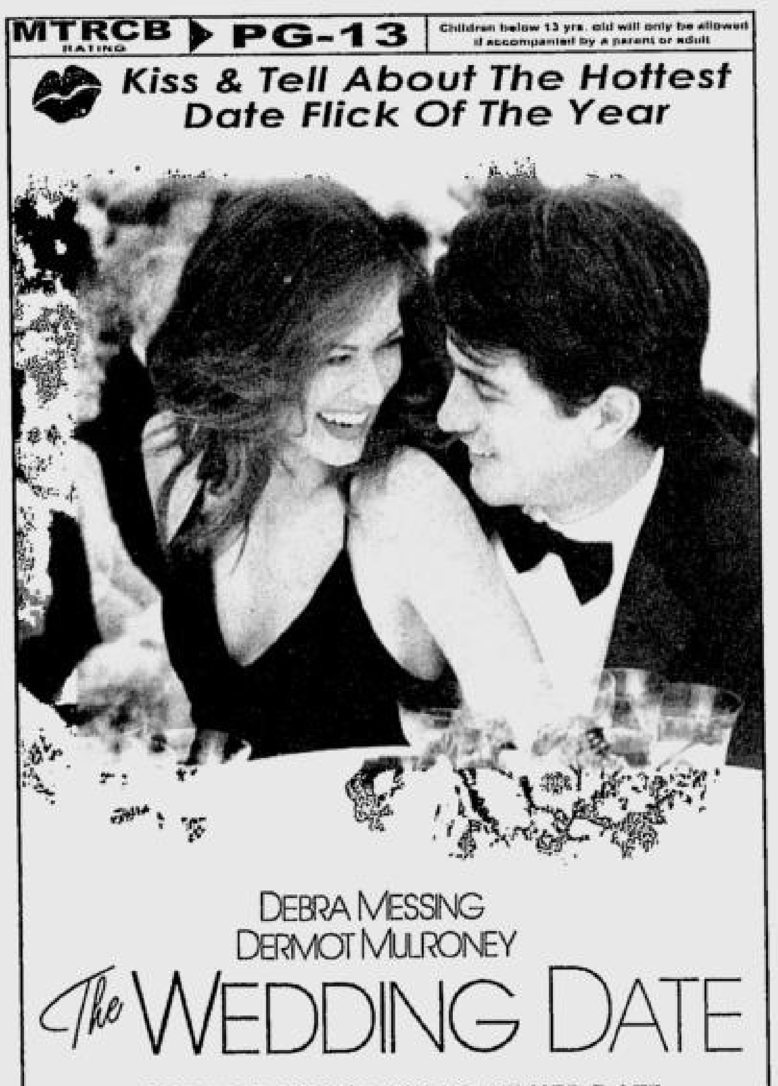
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Kiss & Tell About The Hottest Date Flick Of The Year
DEBRA MESSING
DERMOT MULRONEY
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SHE PAID HIM $6,000 TO BE HER DATE AND GOT A-ONE-IN-A-MILLION LOVE AS BONUS.
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RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

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ENTERTAINMENT

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LVN assets placed at P45M

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Clarissa S. Batino
Business

BANKING sources privy to results of a due diligence on LVN Pictures Inc. have said that the post-production company is valued at about P30 million.

The company's assets, however, are worth a little bit more—between P35 million and P45 million, according to the same sources.

LVN Pictures' assets are mostly equipment used in its film processing and post-production services.

A source said the value of the company itself had gone down in the last two years due to declining revenues. No data was available. INQUIRER made several attempts to call LVN Pictures general manager Nenita Erana, but her secretary said she was in a meeting.

"The valuation of existing assets and equipment ranges between P35 and P45 million while a price earnings valuation puts the company at between P28 and P30 million due to declining revenues in 2003 and 2004," said a banking source.

LNV Pictures, according to sources, have informally asked interested parties to make a bid for either the company or its assets, or both.

The company is one of the pioneers in the film industry, and was founded by Narcisa "Dona Sisang" de Leon in the 1940s.

Management earlier advised employees that the company would close shop by the end of June. Sources said LVN was hit by the declining output of the film industry.

During its first two decades of operations, LVN produced more than 400 movies and was home to the biggest stars of the '40s and the '50s.

The company found its niche in film processing and post-production services after it stopped producing movies toward the 1960s.

Sources said there are three buyers. Aside from LVN, the only other player in the field is Roadrunner, owned by the Lopez family of ABS-CBN.

These are Video Post, a post-production company also controlled by the Lopezes; Regal Films of Lily Monteverde and Stages Production Specialists Inc. represented by Butch Jimenez.

Tony Gloria of Unitel Pictures and Unitel Productions reportedly expressed interest at first but, according to sources, lost interest.

The Philippine movie industry is beset by diverse concerns including competition with foreign films, piracy, TV and cable shows, and rising costs.

At its peak, the local industry was releasing more than 250 movies each year. It is now down to about 25 to 30 films.

If LVN Pictures folds up, movie producers will incur higher costs because they will have to go overseas for their post-production requirements.

What is post-prod processing?

IN THE KNOW

LONG after the cameras have stopped rolling, work on a movie continues in what is called the post-production stage.

All the footage shot during principal photography are sent to the film laboratory (in the Philippines, it is usually the LVN studios) for processing. The resulting negative is readied for TeleCine Transfer.

The TCT is digitized for viewing on the computer to facilitate editing, dubbing, music scoring, and sound engineering.

From the edited version, the filmmakers will choose the shots and scenes that will make the final cut.

This "cut list" will proceed to the next levels—negative assembly, negative cutting, dubbing, scoring, and final mixing—also at LVN. The optical sound and master negative will be combined to produce the first print.

The next and final step is the printing of the master, from which the other release prints can be made. Printing is done by LVN Pictures.

Even if early post-production was done at Roadrunner, the country's other major facility, the first print is still turned over to LVN Pictures for printing.

In short, the film process begins and ends with LVN.

Roadrunner and LVN are accredited by Image Care Program, the ISO (International Standardization Organization) in film laboratories. This accreditation is issued by global giant Kodak.

(Resource persons: Noemi Peji and Sandy Santamaria, line producers, Unitel Pictures)

Bayani San Diego Jr.

OLD pals laugh and make history REUTERS

BACON: Blown away REUTERS

"THE GRADUATE'S" Nichols REUTERS

Tribute to Dustin Hoffman ... De Niro speaks!

NEW YORK—After hearing Mike Nichols take some digs at his nose and Robert de Niro joke about his age, Hollywood veteran Dustin Hoffman took to the stage of New York's Lincoln Center late Monday and spoke about his sense of failure.

"I became an actor because I believed I was a failure," said Hoffman, this year's honoree at the Center's annual tribute gala.

"And in acting, because so few of us ever get work, I could feel proud and fail with dignity," Hoffman said.

The 67-year-old star wrapped up an evening of affectionate tributes from a host of Hollywood luminaries, who testified to Hoffman's influence on an entire generation of actors.

The gala ceremony included clips from his best known movies, including his breakout role in the Nichols-directed "The Graduate," and his Oscar-winning performances in "Kramer vs Kramer" and "Rain Man."

"I was born into what I now know was a dysfunctional family," Hoffman recalled. "I found that out in therapy three weeks ago."

As a recipient of the Lincoln Center tribute, Hoffman joined a distinguished list of actors and directors that includes Charlie Chaplin, Laurence Olivier, James Stewart and Michael Caine.

He became an actor because he believed he was a failure, says NY Lincoln Center honoree

Looking back at his efforts to cast the lead role of Benjamin Braddock in "The Graduate," Nichols said he gave Hoffman a screen test on the strength of a performance he saw the young actor give as "a Russian transvestite fishwife" in an off-Broadway stage production.

Born a star

"He was and is one of the few actors who has a deal with technicolor. In other words, he was a born film actor," Nichols said.

"He also has a deal with the audience. We feel very close to Dustin, whoever he is playing," Nichols said, while also recalling a discussion with the make-up team about what to do with Hoffman's prominent nose.

The taciturn De Niro, Hoffman's co-star in last year's comic box-office success "Meet The Fockers," offered a typically brief tribute, in which he made the most of the six years separating him from the senior Hoffman.

"I remember when I was a young kid growing up in New York, how excited I'd get when my parents took me to see Dustin's movies," he joked.

Hoffman gave as good as he got when his turn came to speak, announcing to the packed audience: "We made history tonight. Robert de Niro speaks!"

Among the other speakers were actress Jennifer Beales and actor Kevin Bacon, who remembered first seeing Hoffman in the role of the gimpy hustler Rico "Ratzo" Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy" and thinking that the producers had actually managed to find a real homeless person to play the part.

"I was so blown away by this bum they got," Bacon said. "I thought, how did they get this bum to come and learn lines?"

Only after subsequently seeing "The Graduate" did Bacon realize Hoffman had created both parts.

"And that's what an actor does," he said. "He becomes different people. And that changed my life. It gave me a focus for what I wanted to do."

AFP

SAYS she's not worried about her weight ... yet.

Donita to make int'l movie

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

DONITA ROSE will play the older sister of French star Virginie Ledoyen in a World War II film intended for international release, according to the actress and former veejay.

The movie is tentatively titled "Seed of Contention" and will be directed by debuting filmmaker Ana Marie Laperal, a US-based Filipina.

Donita, 30, explained that the sisters in the story come from a wealthy Spanish family in Manila during the Japanese Occupation.

Ledoyen, 28, was in Francois Ozon's "Eight Women," with Catherine Deneuve and Emmanuel Beart. But she's more popularly known as Leonardo DiCaprio's love interest in "The Beach."

In "Seed," Japanese soldiers rape Donita's character, Emma, who is so traumatized, she goes insane.

"That's all I can say for now," she told Inquirer Entertainment during a recent visit to the Singapore home that she shares with husband Eric Villarama and their firstborn Joshua Paul.

Of Laperal, Donita said: "We met years ago in Guam for an MTV event. We became good friends. Only later did she find out that I was an actress. I'm helping her pursue her dream of becoming a director. She's a genius ... so I keep encouraging her."

Production starts possibly in October in Manila, said Donita.

Meanwhile, she and Laperal may meet up with Ledoyen at the Cannes Film Festival next month. "[But] I haven't confirmed," she said.

One thing's for sure: she's taking her director's advice not to worry about her weight. Donita had ballooned after giving birth to JP in July last year. She said she had since lost weight, but insisted she was still way off her mark.

"Ana assured me that my present weight is okay at the start of filming," she said. "But as the story progresses and my character goes through all sorts of experiences, like hunger, then I have to look slimmer."

"Seed" is Donita's second international movie. She starred opposite US television star David Hasselfhoff in 1998's "Legacy."

While waiting for the cameras to grind, Donita shuttles between Singapore and Manila. Last Sunday, she was a guest on Channel 2's musical-variety program, "ASAP."

Willy Cruz in hospital after falling into an empty pool

By Marinel R. Cruz and Nini Valera

AWARD-winning composer and musical director Willy Cruz was rushed to the hospital on Friday last week with a pelvic fracture and a compressed nerve in the neck after falling into an empty swimming pool.

The accident happened only a few days after Cruz suffered a mild stroke, his niece, Mica Africa, told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Cruz, 58, is now confined at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

The composer fell head first into the six-foot-deep pool and also sustained a fracture on the left side of his face, said Africa. "The right side is swollen," she said in a phone interview last Tuesday. "But he's conscious, and his CT scan shows no brain injury."

Africa said her uncle was confined at the Delgado Clinic in Quezon City for three days after the mild stroke.

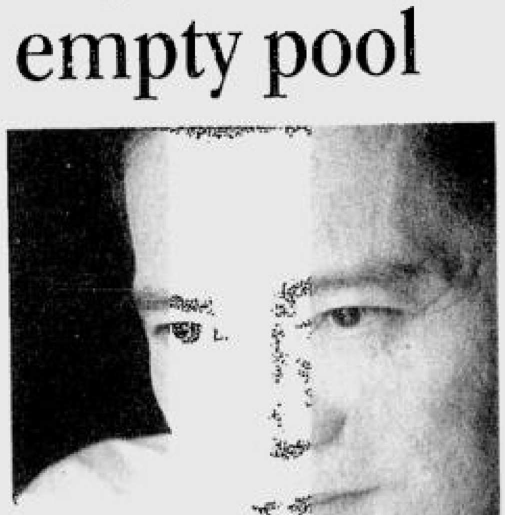
Under stress

"My uncle is a diabetic. His doctor said his blood sugar level and blood pressure shot up while standing at the edge of the pool," Africa recounted. "My sister, Francesca, was beside him when he [blacked out]. *Akala niya nagloloko lang si* Uncle (she thought he was fooling around), until he fell."

The pool is located at the residence of Cruz's aunt in Cubao.

Africa said the composer had been under stress at the time of the accident happened. "He played at Westin Philippine Plaza the night before. He hadn't slept enough."

While he was "okay and communicates with the family," Africa said her uncle was scheduled for surgery.



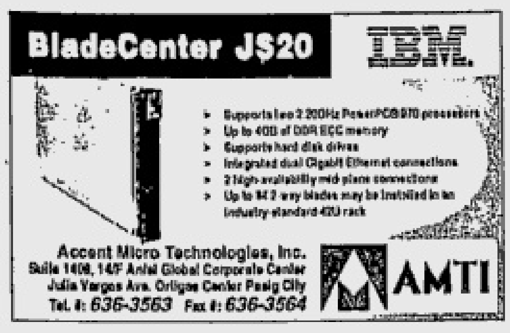
CRUZ: No brain damage

A fundraising event for Cruz has been set on May 16 at the Merk's Bar Bistro in Greenbelt 3, Makati City.

Cruz—who started his career as musical director of the Ambivalent Crowd at the Ateneo in the 1960s—wrote such OPM hits as "I'll Never Say Goodbye," "Doon Lang," "Kahit Na," "Kung Mahawi Man Ang Ulap," "Kamusta Ka," "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas" and "Bituing Walang Ningning for '70s pop idols Nonoy Zuñiga, Hajji Alejandro, Sharon Cuneta and Zsa Zsa Padilla, among others.

He was president of Jem Recording Co. in the '70s and produced several breakthrough albums by local pop artists, like Apo Hiking Society, Mike Hanopol, Janet Basco, Jacqui Magno and Hajji Alejandro.

Cruz was instrumental in popularizing Original Pilipino Music (OPM) long before it was a concept. The term was invented by the late Doroy Valencia, who was head of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas at the time.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ING-led group eyes Maynilad buyout

By Christine A. Gaylican and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A NEW bidder led by investment bank ING Barings Group has signified its intent to acquire west concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad), INQUIRER sources said yesterday.

They said the ING-led consortium included the Ayala group and International Finance Corp., the World Bank's investment arm. An Ayala subsidiary, Manila Water Co. Inc., is the holder of the east water concession.

The sources added that ING and other consortium representatives yesterday met with officials of the Department of Finance to relay their keen interest to buy out the entire stake of the Lopez group in Maynilad.

The ING-led consortium is proposing to assume the financial requirements of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on top of paying Maynilad's liabilities with creditor-banks as required under its rehabilitation plan, according to the sources.

The sources said that another consortium of private banks has signified interest in acquiring Maynilad from the Lopez group.

Officials of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Maynilad also clarified that there was no provision in the concession agreement that disallowed a single company to own both the west and east concession areas in Metro Manila and adjacent cities.

"It is now up to the government to accept this. The original framers of the agreement actually allowed two companies to operate on the premise that if the other one fails, the other could take over," said a source from Maynilad.

DMCI Holdings Inc., the first company that expressed interest to acquire Maynilad, said it would pursue its bid despite the entry of the ING-led consortium.

Creditors and shareholders of Maynilad Water Services Inc. have already agreed to allow private investors to acquire a majority stake in the company instead of reverting it to government control.

This would be part of the new amendments that would be incorporated in Maynilad's final rehabilitation plan to be submitted before local courts by the end of this month.

The MWSS tops Maynilad's list of creditors with an exposure of P8 billion, representing unpaid concession fees. The other creditors accounting for the remaining P10 billion include Credit Agricole, Indosuez Merchant Bank Asia Ltd., Citibank NA, Barclays Bank plc and BNP Paribas, Equitable-PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

Gov't seen to defer June opening of Naia 3

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ARROYO administration is likely to defer the June 21 timetable to start commercial operations of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 due to legal hitches with Japanese contractor Takenaka International Corp.

Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority, yesterday said the original timetable would have to be pushed back if the issues with Takenaka were not addressed soon.

"We will make a final decision by the first week of May as to whether or not to operate Naia 3 in June. There could be some delay but it should not be considerable," said Cusi in an interview.

The goal, he said, was still to open up the new airport facility within the second half of the year.

Takenaka built the Naia Terminal 3 for Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco). The government took over the property late last year and promised to operate the facility in six months.

"Takenaka has yet to turn over the plan of the facility to us. Without it, we could not ensure the structural integrity of the building. This is the only thing preventing us from opening Naia 3 in June," Cusi said.

Cusi said the MIAA had started the construction of a P200-million access road that would link Naia 1 and 2 with Terminal 3. The road would be completed by June.

He said major airlines have committed to transfer to Naia 3 once it was operational.

He said even Philippine Airlines had agreed in principle to move although PAL officials have been insisting that the flag carrier would not transfer if the MIAA would increase the fees.

"Better ask PAL. There are airlines that already signed up with us," Cusi said.

GOV'T/ B2

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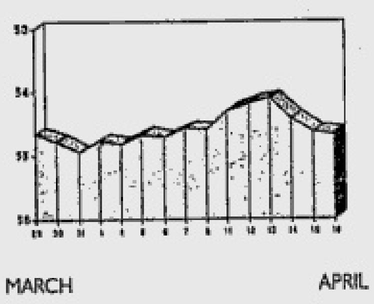

₱54.38 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 20, 2005

¥106.92= $1
As of 5 p.m., April 20, 2005

GOLD: $432.20-432.70
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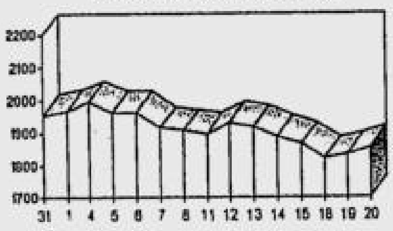
April 20, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.765404	1.000000	54.5260
Japan	Yen	0.007169	0.009366	0.5107
United Kingdom	Pound	1.467891	1.917800	104.5700
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.098142	0.128223	6.9915
Switzerland	Franc	0.648537	0.847314	46.2006
Canada	Dollar	0.618458	0.808016	44.0579
Singapore	Dollar	0.464613	0.607017	33.0982
Australia	Dollar	0.589362	0.770001	41.9851
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.030302	2.652590	144.6351
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.204103	0.266660	14.5399
Brunei	Dollar	0.463207	0.605180	32.9980
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000080	0.000105	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019377	0.025316	1.3804
UAE	Dirham	0.208398	0.272272	14.8459
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.306500	71.2382
Argentina	Peso	0.264388	0.345423	18.8345
Brazil	Real	0.296209	0.386997	21.1014
Denmark	Kroner	0.134218	0.175356	9.5615
India	Rupee	0.017515	0.022883	1.2477
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201449	0.263193	14.3509
Mexico	New Peso	0.069169	0.090369	4.9275
New Zealand	Dollar	0.552160	0.721397	39.3349
Norway	Kroner	0.122021	0.159421	8.6926
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012896	0.016849	0.9187
South Africa	Rand	0.123633	0.161527	8.8074
Korea	Won	0.000755	0.000987	0.0538
Sweden	Kroner	0.108900	0.142278	7.7579
Syria	Pound	0.014745	0.019264	1.0504
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024295	0.031741	1.7307
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000357	0.000466	0.0254

STOCK MARKET

Stocks rise on bargain-hunting

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARE prices closed 1.14 percent higher yesterday, continuing to recover from the recent selloff as investors bought into oversold stocks ahead of first-quarter results, dealers said.

Wall Street's rise overnight also supported market sentiment, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 20.91 points to 1,854.97 after trading between 1,834.06 and 1,862.29. Volume was 1.38 billion shares worth P1.1 billion. The all-shares index rose 3.20 points to 1,140.52.

Gainers led losers 63 to 16, with 38 stocks unchanged.

"The market is rebounding after an (overdone) selloff. Prices may remain volatile for the rest of the week but the volatility is less now compared to last week," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

He said most investors were keeping a close watch on discussions in Congress to pass a much-delayed value-added tax (VAT) law, which President Gloria Arroyo has said was needed to control the budget deficit.

Investors are concerned the law that emerges may raise the corporate income tax instead of increasing VAT, a move critics say would deter investment while failing to control the deficit.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone, the most actively traded stock, was unchanged at P1,335. Conglomerate SM Investments was also steady at P248.

AFP

BCDA not selling prime Boni property

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said it was not poised to sell a 94.9-hectare prime property in Fort Bonifacio even as it started its search for an appraisal firm to determine its fair market value.

BCDA president and chief executive Narciso Abaya confirmed that the agency was scouting for an appraisal firm but pointed out that the planned appraisal "is being done merely as part of our business routine."

There is no plan to sell the property at this point, he pointed out.

The property up for valuation includes the 35.5-hectare JUSMAG/Southside Homeowners Association Inc. area, the 25.8-hectare Navy Officers' Village Association Inc. area, and the 33.6-hectare portion occupied by various military facilities.

According to Abaya, determining the value of a corporate asset "is standard practice and should not immediately be interpreted as part and parcel of a sales process."

Abaya said the BCDA "recognizes and respects the fact that some portions of this property are the subject of legal contests now pending before the courts."

He said the BCDA was determined to push its legal claim on these properties "but will wait until the courts have judged the issue with finality."

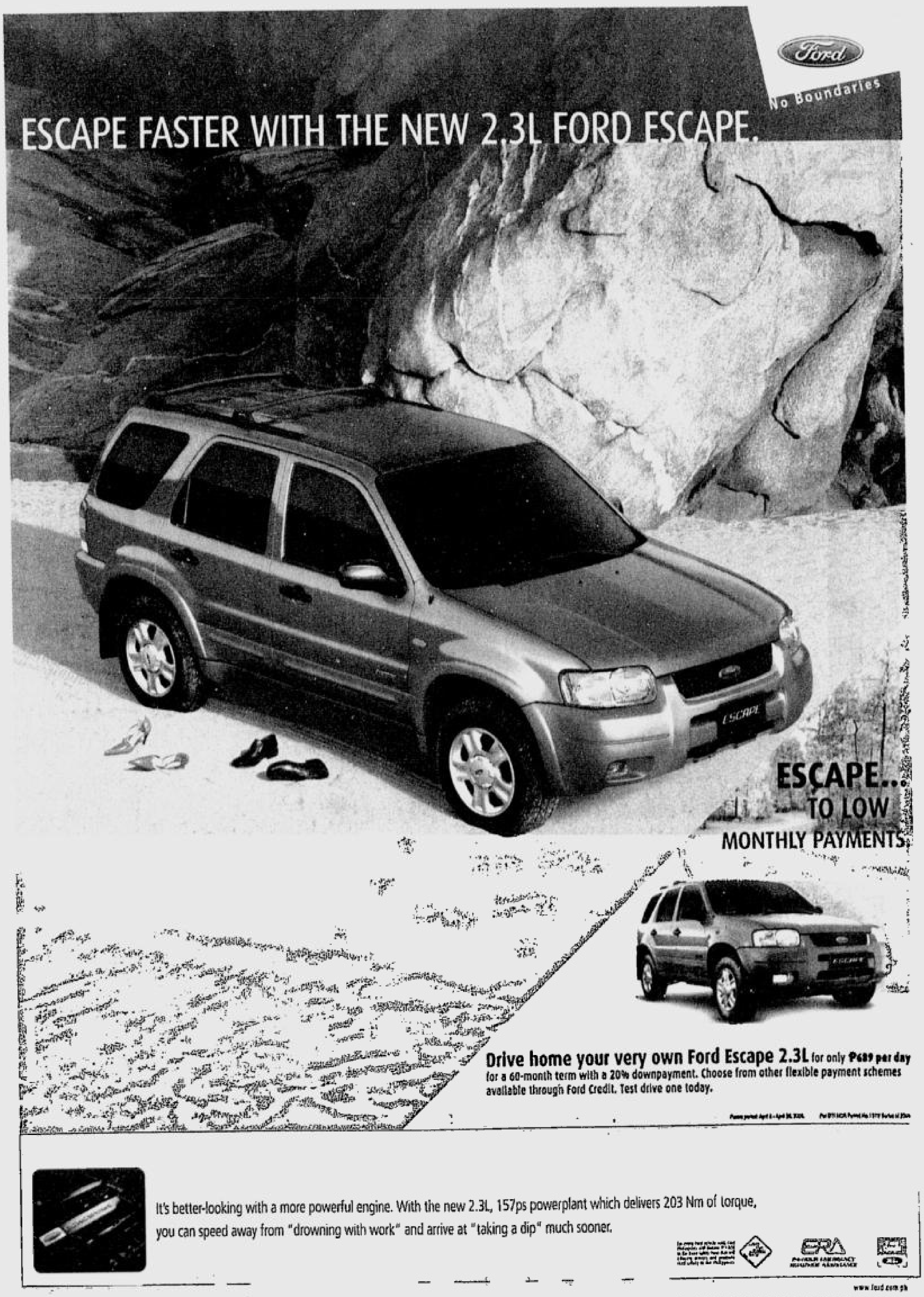
"It will be difficult to dispose assets that are the subject of legal disputes, so we will wait until all the issues are settled before any move to sell or develop them is made," he added.

He assured all parties concerned that the BCDA would await the proper settlement of these issues before proceeding with any plan on how to best use these assets for the development requirements of the country.

INTEREST RATES

April 20, 2005-MART1

Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART 1 20-Apr-05	MART 1 19-Apr-05
1 Month	6.9929	7.0883
3 Months	7.0857	7.125
6 Months	8.0679	8.1115
1 Year	9.0154	9.0462
2 Years	9.8268	9.9161
3 Years	10.72	10.7583
4 Years	11.21	11.2133
5 Years	11.5071	11.5286
7 Years	11.8911	11.9217
10 Years	12.0283	12.17
20 Years	12.4536	12.4321
25 Years	12.8083	12.7817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Gov't seen to defer …

From page B1

Sources said the MIAA was trying to raise $300 million as compensation to Piatco. After the payment, the Japanese contractor hired by Piatco is expected to turn over the Naia 3 to the airport administrator.

Cusi said the MIAA would complete its $300-million borrowing within the month or in early May. The MIAA, however, insisted that the proceeds of the borrowing would go to "general financing requirements."

Piatco and its German partner Fraport are pressing for compensation from the government, especially after the Arroyo administration decided to take over Terminal 3 in December last year.

The transportation department said it would help the Arroyo administration determine the appropriate amount to pay the private consortium that built the Naia 3.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the transport agency "recognizes the right of Piatco for just compensation and will do so after a competent court has determined its real value."

Piatco is 60-percent owned by the Cheng family, 30 percent by Fraport, and 10 percent by Nisho Iwai Corp. of Japan.

KING JAMES
AUCTION CALENDAR

ON-SITE AUCTION
LEADING COFFEE SHOP
TOMAS MORATO, COR. SCT. CASTOR, QUEZON CITY
S/S ASTORIA COFFEE MAKER; S/S GRILLER; S/S PREPARATION TABLE; S/S SINK; S/S CHILLER; REFRIGERATOR; MICROWAVE; SPLIT-TYPE AIRCONS; BAINE MARIE; CHAIRS; MARBLE TABLES; CANOPY; S/S RANGE HOOD; AND MANY MORE (REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P5,000)
VIEWING DATES: APRIL 21-22, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
AUCTION DATE: APRIL 23, 2005 (SAT) 1:00 P.M.

ON-SITE AUCTION
GELADRINO'S RESTAURANT (FINE DINING)
ROTONDA, TAGAYTAY CITY
FURNITURE; FIXTURE; (NMI) S/S KITCHEN EQUIPMENT; PACKAGED-TYPE AIRCON; CHAIRS; TABLES; SOUND SYSTEM; CHANDELIER; FREEZER; CASH REGISTER; CUTTLERY; UTENSILS; ASSTD. GLASSWARE; WINES AND MANY MORE. (REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P5,000)
ALMOST NEW, (4) MONTHS OPERATION
VIEWING DATES: APRIL 22-23, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
AUCTION DATE: APRIL 24, 2005 (SUN) 10:30 AM

ON-SITE AUCTION
OFFICE & RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT
UNIT 1803 18th FLOOR, 88 CORPORATE CENTER, VALERO ST.
COR. SEDEÑO ST., SALCEDO VILLAGE, MAKATI CITY
OFFICE: COMPUTERS; OFFICE DESKS; EXECUTIVE CHAIRS; CONFERENCE TABLES; PARTITION PANELS; PEDESTAL TABLE; CABINET; OFFICE DECORATIONS; JARS; FRAMES; ETC.
RESTAURANT: S/S PREPARATION TABLE; CHAFFING DISH; CUTTLERY SET; UTENSILS; MICROWAVE; GLASSWARE; RICE COOKER; S/S GRILLER; CHAIRS; TABLES; PLANTERS AND MANY MORE (REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P5,000)
VIEWING DATES: APRIL 28-29, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
AUCTION DATE: APRIL 30, 2005 (SAT) 10:30 AM

LABOR DAY BIG AUCTION
PULILAN SITE: 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
GENSETS: (3) DENYO 25KVA; (2) DENYO SUPERSILENT 45KVA; (1) DETRIOT 75KVA; (2) OLYMPIAN 62.5KVA; (2) PERKINS 34KVA; (1) PERKINS 50KVA; (1) POWERMASTER 65KVA; (1) MITSUBISHI 20KVA
VEHICLE: 1997 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY; (2) ISUZU ELF MANLIFT TRUCK; (1) MITSUBISHI CANTER WIDE; ISUZU ELF DROPSIDE; (1) ISUZU BOOM TRUCK W/ BOOM (3) COMPRESSOR W/ JACK HAMMER
GENERAL MERCHANDIZE: COMPUTERS; FURNITURES; FIXTURES; NOVELTY ITEMS; JAKUZI; HOT & COLD WATER HEATER; AIRCONS; MASSAGE BED; AND MANY MORE (REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P10,000)
VIEWING DATES: APRIL 29-30, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
AUCTION DATE: MAY 1, 2005 (SUN) 10:30 AM

FAIRVIEW AUCTION
27 NAPOLI-BELFAST AVE., NORTH FAIRVIEW, Q.C. (BACK OF SM CITY FAIRVIEW)
AUCTION DATE: MAY 7, 2005 (SAT) 10:30 AM

ON-SITE ANTIQUE AUCTION
52 KATIPUNAN AVE., WHITE PLAINS, Q.C.
AUCTION DATE: MAY 8, 2005 (SUN) 10:30 AM

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Counsel for the fence

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WE have sizzling news for those who have been hiding—and still hiding—bad feelings from their own lawyers.

As you all know, the busy Senate is conducting hearings, in aid of whatever, on the apparent grievance of the "public" against investments offered by banks.

That "public" happens to be one single person, who calls himself Manuel Baviera, a former executive of the local branch of the British bank Standard Chartered.

How Baviera was able to convince the Senate that he is the "public," is still the subject of intense debate among the deaf and dumb in Cubao.

But it seems that Baviera also hired a politically well-connected, high-profile lawyer going by the name of Frank Chavez.

To those who harbor ill will against their lawyers, here's the thing: Baviera now disowns that same lawyer.

* * *

ABOUT two years ago, acting as Baviera's lawyer, Chavez wrote Standard Chartered, demanding a "settlement" of $2 million for his client, who was, of course, Baviera.

Or else, the letter said, Chavez would file charges against the bank, even specifying some public offices for forum shopping, este, filing the charges.

These were the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, Department of Justice, National Labor Relations Commission, Prosecutor's Office and the Regional Trial Court.

Perhaps unknown to the senators, the last item on the list was Congress. The letter even cited, by name, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Two years later, taxpayers are paying for valuable Senate time spent on the investigation, in aid of whatever, involving Baviera and Standard Chartered Bank.

* * *

REFUSING to give in to the demand letter from Chavez, who was acting as Baviera's lawyer, Standard Chartered sued Baviera before the DOJ for extortion.

To defend himself against the bank's accusations, perhaps acting as his own defense counsel, Baviera recently told media that he had nothing to do with that very same demand letter.

It was his lawyer, he indicated, who did it.

I guess, while the lawyer was writing the letter, he was just probably sitting on the fence, or something.

In fairness to Peter, este, Baviera, he did not say that he did not know this letter-writing Chavez guy at all. He even admitted that Chavez was his lawyer.

Still, I don't know if, at that very instant after Baviera talked to reporters, the cock crowed three times.

* * *

ANYWAY, do I take it then that, since Baviera is now disowning his own lawyer, Chavez should face charges of "extortion" from the bank?

On the other hand, we all grew up believing that, whenever your lawyer talks, it is as if you are the one talking. That's what you pay him for. I think.

Still, Baviera has a history of changing lawyers or, okay, being dropped as a client by his lawyers.

Initially, in his "complaint" against Standard Chartered, representing Baviera as counsel was former Sen. Rene Saguisag.

Up to now, nobody knows why the highly principled Saguisag suddenly got out of the picture. He is not even camera shy.

* * *

BETWEEN us girls, lobbying in Congress on the proposed value-added tax on electricity, has already been centralized.

As you know, the Senate just passed its version of the bill to expand the VAT, about several epochs after the House passed its version.

The bills are now in the bicameral committee, in which representatives from both chambers try their best to reconcile their differences.

The "bicam" is also the last venue for those sectors which the new VAT bill can kill to explain their position.

For example, if the power industry lobbies to keep the VAT exemption on electricity, it should now talk to only one man, who happens to be a congressman.

Does the gentleman from wherever control the bicameral committee? Does each of the committee members have an assignment for the VAT lobby?

Or does it simply mean, well, you know, share and share alike? You scratch my back, I scratch yours, and we f..k the rest of the country. Something like that!

* * *

VAT is a consumer tax. The chambers want the power companies to shoulder the tax themselves.

Ripple effect. Business can close down because of expensive power.

The number of jobless can rise.

Electronics will move out—$28 billion worth of exports.

What happens to the power companies? Well, nobody will want to invest here. Power crisis. The same thing or worse, closure of more businesses.

* * *

SOME banks, or at least some treasury guys in the banks, do not like the latest imposition of the board of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, or the BAP.

Of course, they can only talk in whispers. They cannot make noise, for the simple reason that they do not want to antagonize the BAP board.

But more than just fear of the powerful BAP board, those unhappy guys must fear the hot eyes of the bank examiners from the Bangko Sentral.

Word is going around banking that the original bright idea, which gave birth to the latest BAP board imposition, actually came from the Bangko Sentral.

* * *

ACTUALLY, everybody agrees with the bright idea of the Bangko Sentral, but as they say, the devil is in the details.

Under Governor Rafael Buenaventura, the central bank introduced reforms to develop the capital markets.

Among them was the creation of an exchange—as in trading venue—for fixed income securities, particularly for corporate IOUs.

With the creation of a healthy market for such IOUs, people can be attracted to them, helping business in the process of raising money. Well, a lot of money!

To concretize the Bangko Sentral idea, somebody put up a corporation, called Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp., or PDEx.

As a corporation, the PDEx, of course, will have to try to make money. Guess where PDEx will try to make all that money! But of course, who else, but from you and me!

* * *

UNDER the imposition of the BAP board, the banks will have to pay for their transactions with PDEx.

Let's say a bank wants to buy for its clients—meaning, you and me—some government IOUs. The bank must pass through the PDEx. For each transaction, the bank must pay PDEx only P900.

And so I talked to the banks. And yes, as sure as there is a lot of lobby money in Congress, they will have to pass on the PDEx charges to the clients. Thanks a lot!

But here is the bad news: All those charges from the PDEx are only part of Phase 1 of this portion of the capital market "reform" project.

Under Phase 2, the BAP board will require the banks to pay higher amounts of something like P150,000 for processing fee and P500,000 for annual fee.

And then there is the salesman terminal fee, branch registration fee salesman registration fee.

Just what exactly those fees are for, nobody can tell. But to me they sound very much like … well, "kotong."

* * *

FOR that's the biggest impact of this PDEx: It's the big increase in the transaction fees, which of course will have to be borne by the public, and not the banks.

To think, at the moment, there is no corporate IOU market to speak of.

To make money—okay, a lot of money—the PDEx will have to deal with government IOUs.

And the present system of trading in government IOUs is doing well, actually. Much cheaper, too!

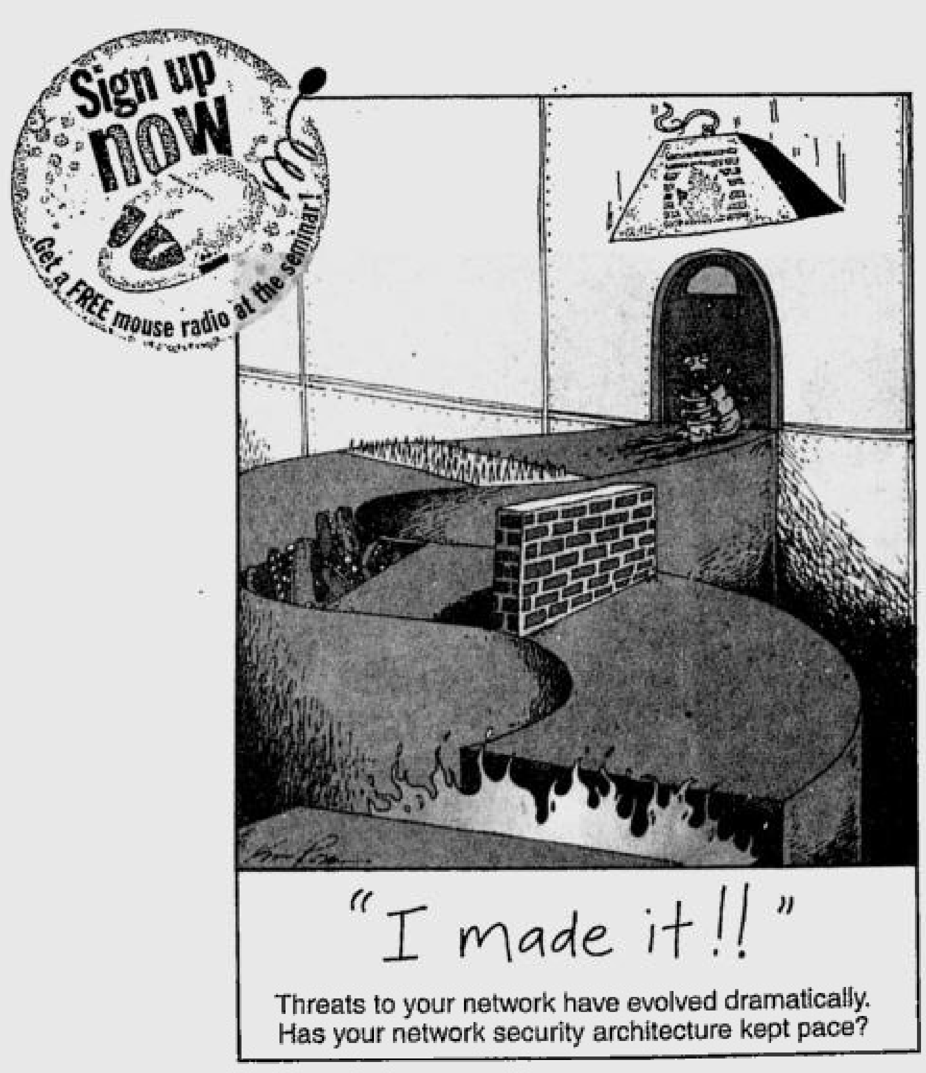
In effect, the PDEx will meddle in the government IOU market, because its intended purpose, which is for corporate IOUs, does not exist.

To help PDEx make money, the banks will have to use its "incomplete" set-up, together with the existing trading system for government IOUs.

Banks in a way are supporting the PDEx to help develop capital market, by making PDEx operation viable—i.e. profitable.

PDEx will derive all of its income from the banks—a 100 percent! Yet the banks only own 32 percent of PDEx.

One of the other owners is a software company. Guess who will benefit the most!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Manila Water

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of **MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC. (MWC)** will be held at the Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, on **Thursday, May 12, 2005, at 9:00 a.m.**, with the following:

AGENDA

1. Determination of quorum
2. Approval of minutes of the stockholders' meetings on May 3, 2004, July 26, 2004 and October 28, 2004
3. Notation of MWC 2004 Annual Report and approval of MWC's Audited Financial Statements as of December 31, 2004 incorporated in said Annual Report
4. Ratification of all acts and resolutions during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Management Committees and Officers of MWC
5. Election of 11 members of the Board of Directors
6. Election of External Auditor
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record as of April 19, 2005 will be entitled to notice and to vote at this meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Book of MWC will be closed from April 19, 2005 to May 12, 2005.

The Annual Stockholders' Meeting will be followed by an Organizational Meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors for the election/appointment of the principal officers of MWC and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Balara, Quezon City, April 18, 2005.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRIMER B. LEONEN
Corporate Secretary

Gov't to stick to 5-6% '05 inflation rate target

TETANGCO

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT will stick to its 5-6 percent inflation rate target for this year even as officials plan to overhaul economic targets under the medium-term Philippine development plan (MTPDP).

Amando Tetangco Jr., who will become the next Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas chief this July, said the inflation targets this year and next year would likely be kept despite the inevitable downscaling of growth targets due to higher oil prices.

The inflation targets were already increased by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee to 5-6 percent from 4-5 percent for 2005, and to 4-5 percent from 3-4 percent for 2006.

The targets were adjusted after the National Statistics Office updated the consumer price index base year to 2000, from the 1994-based CPI.

Tetangco said it was better to stick to the current targets, even if the BSP had conceded that the ceiling for this year would be breached due to runaway oil prices. He added that the BSP would also keep its inflation-targeting approach.

"In monetary policy, what I can say is that inflation will continue to be the focus," Tetangco said.

He added any additional adjustment might only cause a shift in inflationary expectations that could further drive up consumer prices.

Based on recent government simulations, the rise in oil prices would likely chop off about half a percentage point in the country's gross domestic product this year to 5 percent. Next year, officials expect an even bigger cut in the GDP of 1.35 percentage points to 5.2-5.5 percent.

The MTPDP originally forecasts a growth of 5.3-6.3 percent for this year, and 6.3-7.3 percent for next year.

The development framework had assumed much lower global oil prices—$32.7 per barrel for this year and $29.2 per barrel for 2006—as against current prices above $50 per barrel. According to the latest forecast, oil prices may average at $54.7 per barrel this year and 54.83 per barrel next year.

Even at current prices of about $54 per barrel, the government's economic managers had admitted that the country's original growth expectations would no longer be feasible given the adverse impact of rising commodity prices.

RP adopts IMF finance standard

Move expected to substantially reduce public sector debt

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would no longer include the liabilities of government financial institutions (GFIs) in the computation of the country's public sector debt.

The move is seen to significantly improve the Philippines' debt picture.

According to a finance official, excluding the debts of the financial sector in the computation of the public sector debt is part of the government's ongoing adjustments in its financial reporting. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) earlier urged the Philippine government to adopt the new financial standards.

Excluding the liabilities of the financial sector—which includes the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and other GFIs like the Land Bank of the Philippines and Philippine National Bank—from the computation of the public sector debt would trim the country's debt figure by over a trillion pesos.

DOF data showed that the liabilities of the financial sector stood at P1.46 trillion as of end-2003, and slightly improved to P1.37 trillion as of end-2004.

The DOF earlier reported that the debt of the non-financial public sector—including the national government, government-owned and –controlled corporations, social security institutions, and local government units—reached P4.593 trillion as of end-September 2004.

According to the finance official, the computation of the public sector debt for future financial reporting will only cover liabilities of the non-financial sector.

Liabilities of the financial sector will still be reported, but only as a memorandum item.

Other countries have begun computing their respective public sector debts using the new method, the finance official said.

The Philippines is one of the few remaining countries that has yet to adopt the international practice, he added.

Pepoa: VAT bill to wipe out power utilities' income

By Abigail L. Ho

SLAPPING a 10-percent value-added tax (VAT) on the power sector, while maintaining the "no pass through" provision for residential power users, can wipe out the already slim margins of distribution utilities and electric cooperatives, according to an industry executive.

Assuming that around half of a power distributor's customers belong to the residential category, Philippine Electric Plant Owners Association (Pepoa) executive director Raquilino Pangan said imposing a 10-percent VAT on power, without passing it on to residential customers, would mean that distributors would shoulder an additional tax equivalent to roughly 5 percent of gross sales.

The "no pass through" provision contained in the proposed VAT bill is meant to cushion the impact of higher VAT on residential consumers.

Pangan said, however, that since most distribution utilities have margins of only around 5 percent—sometimes even less—all of a company's profits would just go to tax payments.

He said the situation would be even more dire for electric cooperatives as most of them do not have margins at all, let alone the capacity to shoulder a tax that should be passed on to end-users.

"The DUs' ability to remain financially viable will be questionable," he said in a briefing yesterday. "Electric cooperatives are now also subject to VAT. Requiring them to absorb the VAT component of residential customers may be fatal to their finances."

The "no pass through" provision, as it only covered residential customers, could also hamper the government's rural electrification program in the long run, he said.

He explained that power producers might be compelled to no longer sell to utilities and electric cooperatives that have a large base of residential customers, because of the required VAT absorption and the hazard this will pose on the power distributors' viability.

"Generators and DUs would rather sell to non-residential customers," he said.

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Celeron cpu w/ hdd / ram / fdd	P 1,500
P3 cpu w/ hdd / ram / fdd	P 3,690
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15" SVGA	P 1,350
17" SVGA	P 1,800

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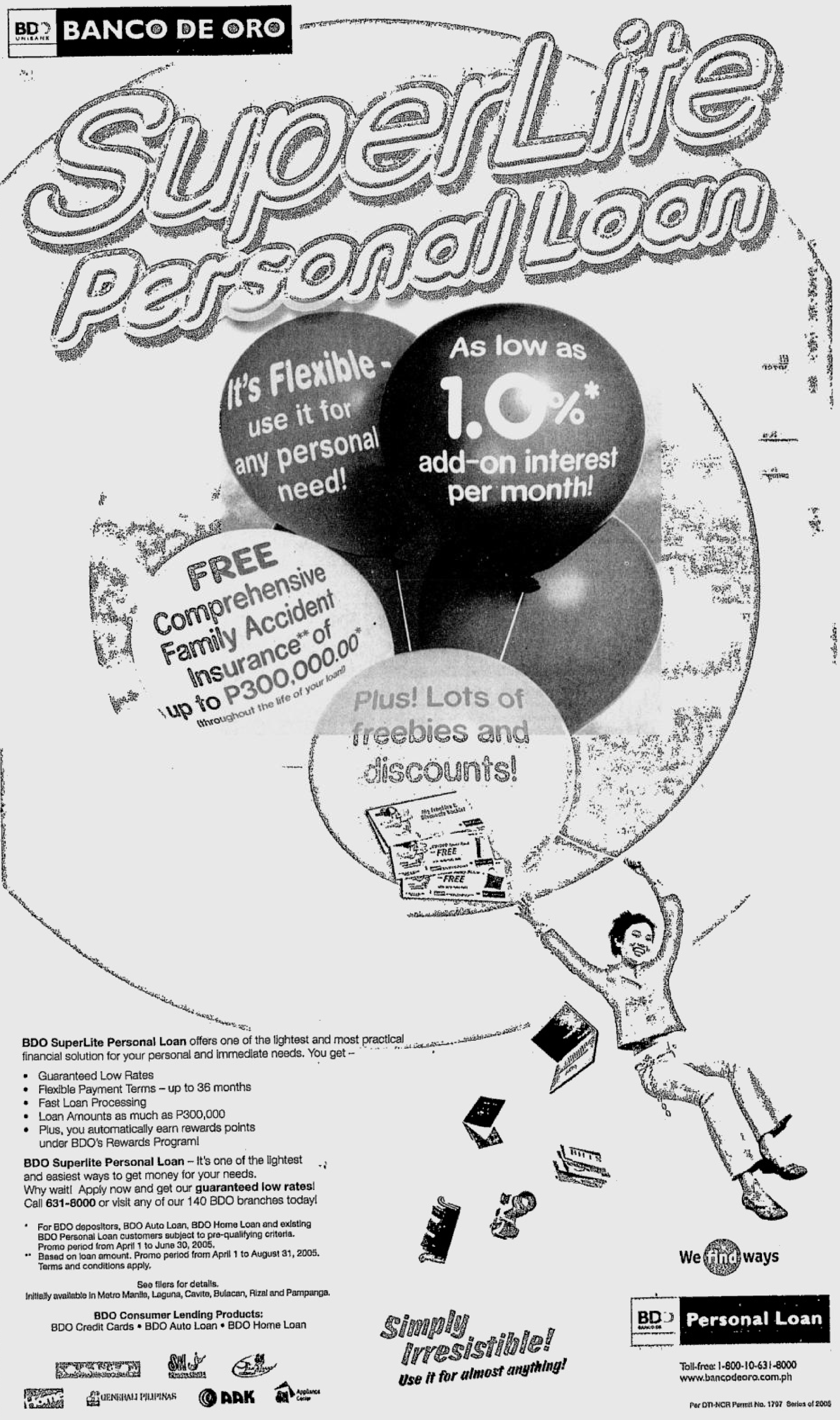

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 20, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.65	3.75	3.65	3.75	28,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	26	26	26	26	24,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	47.5	47.5	3,514,200
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	760
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.69	0.72	0.69	0.7	3,850,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46.5	47	46	47	34,700
International Exch. Bank	18	18	18	18	882,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	31	32	297,200
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30	30	6,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	300
Security Bank Corp.	29	29	27.5	27.5	2,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	7,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2450	2450	2450	2450	120
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	650,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	150	150	150	50,100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1645	1650	1645	1650	720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.5	60,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	7,959,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	830	825	825	27,780
Ipeople Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.2	213,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	1,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	1,342,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	15,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1340	1350	1335	1335	198,850
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.67	0.67	500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	76,900,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.75	17	16.5	17	39,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.25	23.75	24.25	218,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	4,807,000
Petron Corp.	3.45	3.6	3.45	3.55	1,454,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	2,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	1,065,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	18,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	80,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	656,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.8	210,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	89,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33	33	33	33	27,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	68,100
Swift Food Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	250,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	60,700
San Miguel Corp. B	82	83	82	83	84,900
Universal Robina Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	120,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	249,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.7	6,974,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	30,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.35	4.4	4.35	4.35	299,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2	1.96	1.96	256,000
APC Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.35	1,700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	12,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.7	1.64	1.7	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14	14	14	14	51,800
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	150,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	4,880,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	930,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.36	0.31	0.36	550,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.85	3.1	2.85	3	5,962,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	79,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.9	9	8.9	9	769,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45	48	45	46	733,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.095	1,800,000
IPVG Corp.	3	3	3	3	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	222,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.84	1.84	62,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	4,700,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	1,101,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	12,460,000
SM Investments Corp.	246	248	245	248	864,020
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.245	0.23	0.235	10,300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	25,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	90,000
Picop Resources, Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.11	0.11	2,600,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.2	6,020,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.96	700,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.54	1,926,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	12,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	500,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	111,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.9	13,763,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.82	0.82	130,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,160,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	3,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.42	1.42	4,499,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	111,000
SM Development Corp.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	148,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.5	2,124,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	140,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5	5.2	5	5.1	419,000
Benguet Corp. B	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	4,100
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.33	9,880,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.36	24,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	208,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.023	367,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	166,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.97	1	0.96	0.96	2,150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.12	6,656,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	35.5	36	35.5	36	145,900
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.006	72,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.18	0.185	0.175	0.175	8,050,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	340,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	9,348,600	208,499,050.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	443,272,350	724,040,430.00
PRO	25,285,000	133,146,600.00
Mining	806,435,000	42,951,690.00
OIL	95,590,000	2,169,850.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,379,930,950	1,110,807,620.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	545.46	UP 4.82
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,911.16	UP 27.20
PRO	717.73	UP 12.69
Mining	2,885.27	UP 178.12
OIL	2.52	UP 0.09
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,140.52	UP 3.20
Composite	1,854.97	UP 20.91

NO. OF ADVANCES: 63, NO. OF DECLINES: 16, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 117, NO. OF TRADES: 2,893

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pag-IBIG FUND is inviting qualified Contractors/Suppliers to Apply for Eligibility and Bid for the following requirements:

Item No.	Particulars	Agency Budget Ceiling	Cost of bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-bid Conference
I	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Wide Area Network (3-year Lease-to-Own)	P 35,894,740.00	P 7,000.00	May 11, 2005 1:30 p.m.
II	Supply and Delivery of various Network Equipment for Pag-IBIG Branch and Regional Offices (LAN Upgrade)	P 17,528,867.00	P3,500.00	May 13, 2005 1:30 p.m.

Documentary Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid Forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services 7th floor Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City starting April 21, 2005.

Submission of Documentary Requirements and Opening of Bid Proposals shall be conducted at Room 602, 6th Floor, Pag-IBIG Fund Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City, as follows:

Item No.	Schedule of Opening of Bids (tentative)
I	May 25, 2005; 1:30 p.m.
II	May 27, 2005; 1:30 p.m.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the Fund assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Carlos A. Latorre/Mr. Jose Maria M. Diaz/Mr. Cesar V. Racoma at 811-42-62, 894-58-95 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph.

(Sgd.) **EMMA LINDA B. FARIA**
Senior Vice President, Technical Support Group
Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI—April 21 & 28, 2005)

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE National Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 24, 8 a.m. at the ballroom, upper lobby of the Century Park Hotel, and not on the date, time and place reported yesterday.

* * *

FILINVEST Land Inc., not Philippine National Bank as reported yesterday, will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27, 9 a.m. at the FCC marketing office, Corporate Avenue, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The record date is April 29.

* * *

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. disclosed the postponement of the supposed April 27 annual stockholders' meeting. The audit of the company's 2004 financial statements is yet to be completed.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. disclosed chairman Felipe Yap and president Bryan Yap's clarifications of a news article: Ivanhoe Mines Ltd. is currently looking into all the mining properties of the company; and that it had been mining in the same area for the last 70 years.

* * *

CASHROUNDS Inc. furnished the PSE a copy of Gamboa Holdings Inc.'s tender offer report, in connection with the sale of 18,171,286 shares of the company at P74.395 million.

* * *

TRANS-ASIA Oil and Energy Development Corp. furnished the PSE a copy of the SEC Form 23-A showing the shareholdings of its newly elected independent director, Roberto M. Laviña.

* * *

MANILA Water Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 12, 9 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental, Makati. Only stockholders of record as of April 19 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Erika Sarmiento, PDI Research***

JG Summit posts 185% profit jump

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc. of tycoon John Gokongwei yesterday reported a 185-percent jump in net income for 2004 to P5.9 billion from P2.07 billion the previous year.

Consolidated revenues hit P61.55 billion last year, 13.7 percent more than the previous year's P54.12 billion. In its report to the Securities and Exchange Commission, JG Summit also said most of its business units reported higher sales except for its petrochemical business, whose revenues fell slightly by 5 percent to P6.4 billion.

Its food and beverage arm Universal Robina Corp. (URC) reported that net income grew 32.6 percent to P1.9 billion with revenues up 16.3 percent to P27.2 billion. URC's fiscal year ended last September.

Real estate and hotels arm Robinsons Land Corp. generated total gross revenues of P4.7 billion, increasing by 9 percent from P4.3 billion in 2003. RLC's net income increased 37 percent to P920 million from P670.6 million.

Commercial centers boosted growth due to improved rental space from existing malls in Metro East Pasig and Iloilo, and the take-up of new malls opened in Sta.Rosa, Cagayan de Oro, Cavite, Batangas and Cainta, Rizal.

However, Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. widened its net losses last year by 40 percent to P1.81 billion from P1.29 billion. Digitel's revenues rose 13.3 percent to P7.3 billion due to its wireless business. Costs and expenses rose 9 percent to P7.69 billion also from increased spending on marketing, travel and transport related expenses for its wireless services.

Cebu Pacific revenues grew 21.6 percent to P7.41 billion from P6.09 billion due to improved domestic operations. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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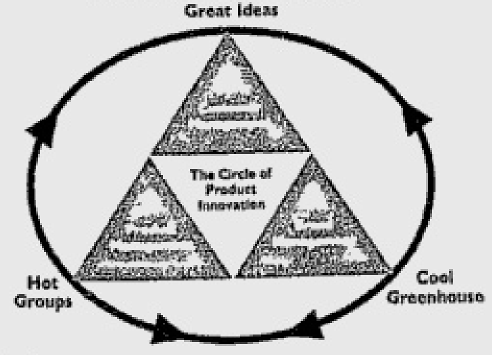

Program Outline

8.30 am - 9.00 am	Registration
9.00 am - 11.00 am	The Marketing Trilogy: Product-Brand-Customer Management
11.00 am - 11.30 am	Coffee Break
11.30 am - 1.00 pm	The Art of Innovation
1.00 pm - 2.00 pm	Networking Lunch Break
2.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Lesson From Philippine's Innovative Company: Philippine Long Distance telephone (PLDT) Guest Speaker: Mr. Menandro Jimenez Jr., SVP Corporate Communications
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Coffee Break
3.30 pm - 5.00 pm	Think Creative Organization: Great Ideas, Hot Groups and Cool Green House

Praise for our first Executive MasterClass, Manila, January 25, 2005.

Marian Munoz
Associate Product manager (Unilab Nutritionals Inc)
"During the workshop, it triggers you to rethink your business and makes you want to apply the learnings from the seminar. My favorite workshop seminar so far!"

Angela Coloma-de Guzman
Senior Marketing Manager (Brand Loyalty)
"Hermawan Kartajaya has a very good analytical gift for marketing which is shown in his own marketing models"

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Phone: (632)816-1643 / (632)817-0706
Fax: (632)325-0288
Mobile: +639175003127

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED

23F GT Tower Ayala Avenue cor HV Dela Costa St., Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
As of March 28, 2005

ASSETS		Amount
Cash and Cash Items	P	1,772,436 66
Due from Central Bank		1,641,039,926 81
Due from Other Banks		426,879,265 77
Interbank Loans Receivable		1,161,400,345 39
Trading Account Securities		
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		2,723,670,159 75
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		4,381,559,215 17
Equity Investments (Net)		2,570,850 00
Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		3,037,974,784 24
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures & Equipments (Net)		21,417,077 17
Other Assets (Net): Others		216,886,912 54
TOTAL ASSETS	P	13,516,280,872 60

LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	211,716,364 60
Savings Deposits		616,106,067 71
Time Deposits		5,340,984,122 11
Special/Other Deposits		9,071,204 80
Due to Central Bank		7,177,916 16
Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		5,886,461,463 83
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,093,404 62
Bills Payable		
Interbank Borrowings		583,657,060 66
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		390,567 07
Other Liabilities		323,760,755 15
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	12,985,316,989 43

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		Amount
Assigned Capital	P	444,323,834 54
Other Capital Accounts		86,640,348 83
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	530,963,883 37
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,516,280,872 60

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	1,062,453,783 66
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		4,384,032,308 76
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		2,690,646,096 66
Other Contingent Accounts		2,018,822,454 16
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	11,065,954,645 26

Other Information

1. Deposits of:	
a. Government	nil
b. Banks	24,809,727 50
c. Trust Department	nil
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law: Prescribed Ratio — 6% Small Ent. 2% Medium Ent.	6.00
Actual Compliance	6.54
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans	79,562,543 60
4. Ratio of Non-Performing loans to total loan portfolio	1.39%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	79,562,543 60
6. General Provision for Loan Losses	160,206,785 01
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses	19,890,630 31
8. Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Assigned Capital	38.22%
Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Shareholder's Equity	26.17%
Return on Equity (ROE) - Inclusive of Net Due to HO	7.84%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	5,030,404 80
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/adv to total loans/advances	0.09%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans /advances	nil
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio	nil
13. "Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad" forms part of capital of Philippine Branch of foreign bank	2,850,460,570 59

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

WE JOHNNY CO and WAYNE BROWN of the above mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief

(Sgd.) JOHNNY CO
General Manager and
Country Head

(Sgd.) WAYNE BROWN
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this APR 18 2005 affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No [illegible] issued at Manila City on Jan 18 2005 and Passport No [illegible] issued in [illegible] Australia on May 20 2004

Benjamin B. Mata
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until Dec 31 2005
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Date issued 03 January 2005

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SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/3-4tb/1-2grge mdsrmP3.880M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

One Sapphire 1.2M-3.1M
687-3372 / 0917-8102903

PARANAQUE

Chateau De Bay Condo 176m² incl carpark fully furnished P35T rent P4M sale neg 0921-5799456 Aileen

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Galleria Corp Ctr 107m² FF 4.6M 6873372/0917-8102903

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MEMORIAL LOT

HvensGate Cheap 0917-6571990

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Prime Twr 1BR 0921-7985148

PASIG

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★HORIZON 2br 30T 4121825

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

WANTED TO RENT
furnish condo near
Ateneo Katipunan
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APARTMENT

MAKATI

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MANILA

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MANDALUYONG

PRIVATE COMPOUND STUDIO 5339225 OR 09178340519

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BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

PCCI
ANNUAL
MEETING OF
VOTING MEMBERS
& ELECTION OF
OFFICERS
MAY 21, 2005
2:00 PM AT SULO
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QUEZON CITY

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SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – V
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
☎ 811-7802 loc. 36 • 473-8936; 473-2334

April 18, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

No. 2005-08 s. 2005

1. The Bicol Medical Center (BMC) invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders who are qualified to participate in the following projects:

    a. *Project:* Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals
    Approved Budget for the Contract: SIXTEEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE PESOS & 40/100 (PhP16,147,975.40)
    Release of Bid Documents: April 18 to May 5, 2005
    Cost of Bid Documents: PhP2,000.00
    Pre-Bid Conference: May 5, 2005 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
    Bid Opening: May 17, 2005 9:00 A.M. BMC Library

    b. *Project:* Procurement of Medical, Surgical and Dental Supplies
    Approved Budget for the Contract: FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT PESOS (PhP4,807,268.00)
    Release of Bid Documents: April 18 to May 4, 2005
    Cost of Bid Documents: PhP2,000.00
    Pre-Bid Conference: May 4, 2005 9:00 AM, BMC Library
    Bid Opening: May 16, 2005 9:00 AM BMC Library

2. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.

3. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City, Telephone No. 473-2334; 473-89-36, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents per project may be purchased upon submission of a written application to the following address:

    Dr. RODOLFO C. URSUA
    Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
    Bicol Medical Center
    Naga City

5. Bids must be delivered to the above address on the specified date and time per project. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount of at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms:

    a) Cash, certified check, cashier's/manager's check, Bank draft, or irrevocable letter of credit – One Percent (1%)
    b) Bank Guarantee – One & A Half Percent (1-1/2%)
    c) GSIS Surety Bond – Two & A Half Percent (2-1/2%)

6. The BMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to issuance of the Award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) *RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS, FPUA*
Medical Specialist II and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–April 21 & 27, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estates of the late ANDREA SAN CARLOS FABELLA, LEONISA F. ZALAMEA-ASERON and NATIVIDAD F. ZALAMEA-MAGALLONA were settled by their heirs through an extrajudicial settlement acknowledged before Not. Pub. Atty. Rhea L. Bunoan of Q.C. under Doc. 285; Page 57, Bk XIII Series of 2005. (PDI 4/7, 14, & 21 '05)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late EMMANUEL S. ATILAND was extrajudicially settled by the heirs on April 12, 2005 as per Doc. No. 270, Page 55, Book 41-4, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M Velasco of Pasig City.
(PDI - April 14, 21 and 28, 2005)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Name of Project : Operation & Maintenance of MEZ STP/WRF
Location of Project : Mactan Economic Zone, Lapu-lapu City

Provision for necessary personnel to operate and maintain the STP/WRF on a 24-hour basis; periodic clean up and maintenance of reuse water distribution system and sewerage collection system, installation of water meter to potential users; upkeep and cleanliness of the facilities, among others.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority, through the Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ) through the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing Board intends to apply the sum of Php 2.8 million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Operation & Maintenance of MEZ STP/WRP. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The MEZ now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Operation & Maintenance of MEZ STP/WRF. Expected contract duration is for one (1) year. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the MEZ and inspect the bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8 AM to 5 PM.

BAC Secretariat
2nd Floor, MEZ Administration Bldg.
Mactan Economic Zone, Lapu-lapu City

Interested Bidders may purchase the complete set of Bidding Documents from 20 April to 06 May, 2005 at the above mentioned address upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of PhP 2,500.00. The method of payment will be in cash only. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

The MEZ will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at 10 AM on 06 May, 2005 at the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, MEZ Administration Building, Lapu-lapu City.

Bids and Eligibility requirements must be delivered to the MEZ-BAC at the 2nd Floor MEZ Administration Building, Lapu-lapu City on or before 10 AM, 24 May 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount as specified in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on 24 May 2005 at 2 PM, Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, MEZ Administration Building Lapu-lapu City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above.

In case any of the abovementioned dates is declared as a non-working holiday, it will be reset on the next working day.

The MEZ reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to contract award, without hereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE
Mr. SANSALUNA A. PINAGAYAO
Zone Administrator
Mactan Economic Zone, Lapu-lapu City
Tel. No. (032) 340-0595 Fax No. (032) 340-0591
Web address: www.peza.gov.ph

(Sgd.) BELENIA B. LOBITAÑA
MEZ BAC – Chairperson

(PDI – April 21 & 28, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the DECEASED FRANCISCO ORTEGA, JR., who died intestate on FEB. 22, 2000, and the deceased ZOE B. ORTEGO, who died also intestate on JAN. 19, 2005, was adjudicated by their only heir KATHERINE B. ORTEGO by virtue of an affidavit of self-adjudication executed and acknowledged before ATTY. PABLO S. CASTILLO, Notary Public, and entered in his notarial record as Doc. No. 006, Page No. 002, Book No. I, Series of 2005.
(PDI - APR. 21, 28 & MAY 5, 2005)

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RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Abra
City/Municipality: Lagayan

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that VICTOR ROLAND TAMAYO has filed with this Office a petition for changed of first name from MARIA JIMEMAH to MA. JIMEMA in the birth certificate of MARIA JIMEMAH who was born on January 22, 1970 at Lagayan, Abra and whose parents are Esteban Tamayo and Danila Dalangey.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office no later than March 22, 2005.

(Sgd.) CARMELO T. VELASQUEZ
City/Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI - April 14 & 21, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Region 4-A

NOTICE

THE PALADIN ASSOCIATION INC. (Owner/Developer) has filed with this Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of subdivision lots at LINGAP VILLE I located at Brgy. Dingin, Pagsanjan, Laguna specifically described as Lot No. 2335 and 2545 Cad-69 Pagsanjan Cadastre. The project is under BP 220 The subdivision plan is already approved by the Land Management Sector (LMS) dated 03 March 2005.

All papers relative thereto shall upon request and payment of processing fee is available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon

Absent legal impediment, the above-cited project is deemed registered and a certificate in evidence thereof shall forthwith be issued after ten (10) days from last day of publication.

Quezon City, Metro Manila. March 14, 2005.

(Sgd.) BELEN G. CENIZA
Director

(PDI - April 21, 2005)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee – Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers to a public bidding for one (1) lot supply of all labor, materials, tools, equipment and technical supervision for the supply, delivery and installation of three (3) units 460/277V, 3-phase 60Hz standby diesel engine driven electric generator sets with nominal capacity of 2000 kW including all accessories as per BSP scope of work, mechanical and electrical technical specifications and structural, mechanical and electrical Plans.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P70,000,000.00

Completion Period: Within 300 calendar days to commence after receipt of Notice to Proceed to be issued by the Department of General Services, BSP, Security Plant Complex, Quezon City.

Bid documents are available from **22 April 2005 to 09 May 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P35,000.00 at the following:

BAC Secretariat
Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building
Cor. A. Mabini & P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 523-6427

Pre-Bid Conference : **29 April 2005, 9:00 A.M.**
Bidding Date and Time : **11 May 2005, 10:00 A.M.**
Place : Room MR2A, 2nd floor, 5-storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila

Interested bidders shall submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers
2. Y2002 and Y2003 audited Financial Statements (Income Statement and Balance Sheet)
3. Y2002 and Y2003 Income Tax Return duly stampered/received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or its duly authorized agent bank or a Certified True Copy of Y2002 and Y2003 Income Tax Return issued by the Revenue District Officer of the BIR concerned (for electronic filing)
4. Valid and current Mayor's permit/municipal license
5. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts, or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid; or a certification from the bank stating that the bidder has a cash deposit with a holding period of at least one (1) month from the date of bidding. The commitment or cash deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current assets – Current liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 10
6. Sworn statement that the firm is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
7. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check
8. Sworn certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.
9. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree
10. Certification from the manufacturer that the prospective bidder is the authorized distributor in the Philippines of the specific equipment being offered and that they are authorized installer and are fully supported by the manufacturer for all installation works and after sales service.
11. Company Profile showing that the prospective bidder has been engaged in the sale and installation of electric generator for at least ten (10) years
12. List of projects done by the prospective bidder for the last five (5) years with similar or larger capacity generator units indicating the following information: brand, model, rating, number of units supplied and installed, clients name, contact person, project location and certificate of completion and acceptance
13. Product brochure(s) together with proof that major components of the offered generator like diesel engines, alternators, switch gears have passed UL listing, JIS or UK standards

Envelope No. 2:

1. Instruction to Bidders
2. Duly accomplished Certification/Undertaking
3. Original Bid Security

Envelope No. 3:

Price Proposal with Cost Breakdown of Offer

All envelopes shall be dropped in the bid box located at Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, Jr.**
Chairman

(PDI – April 21, 2005)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO

PD Ref. No.: PB050329-EL0019

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE**, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF JET A-1 AVIATION FUEL (FOR ONE YEAR)

TOTAL ABC: P14,117,000.00

1. Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **April 19, 2005 to May 17, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 a.m of May 18, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is declared non-working day, the new deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **May 9, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - April 21 & 28, 2005)

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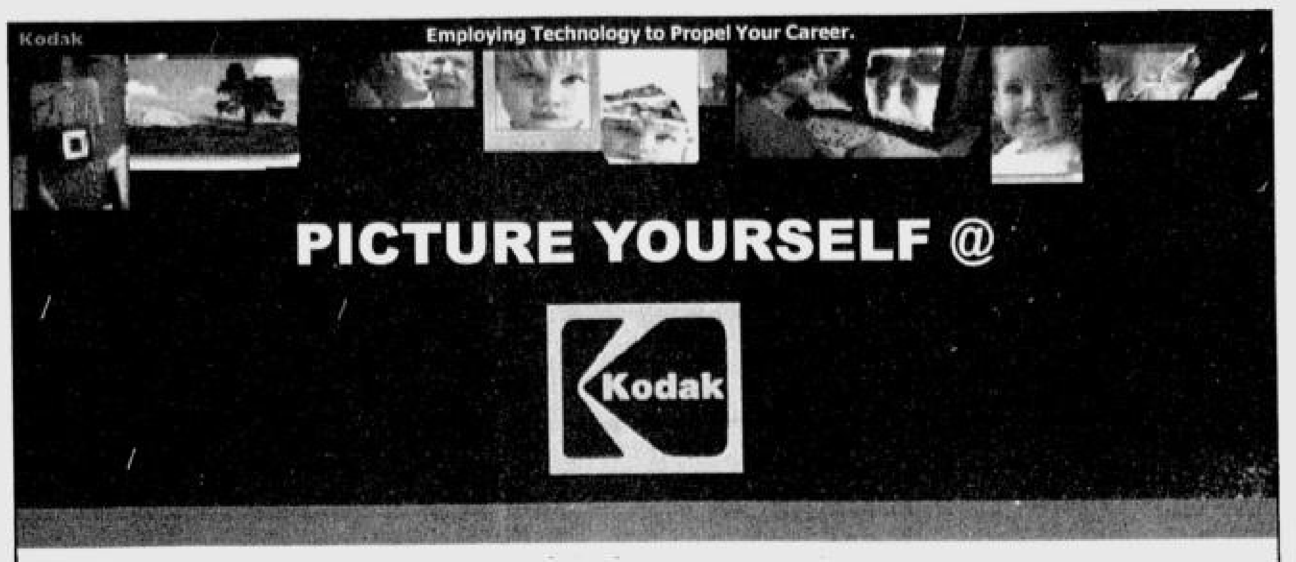
Basic animation workshop set

A BASIC Animation Workshop for Children will be held by the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Media Arts Division and Pinoy Animagination from April 19 to 23, at the CCP Dreamtheater. The workshop will cover basic illustration and animation techniques, introduction of frame-by-frame, storyboard and flipbook. The course is designed for children ages 9 to 16 aim to tap on the artistic potentials of participants by using animation as a means of expression and communication and to challenge students to explore and experiment with materials, techniques and ideas. For details, you can contact Media Arts Division at telephone numbers 832-1125 locals 1704/1712.



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- Preferably has adequate understanding of the imaging business, products and services and the customers' business
- Creative and dynamic, and with initiative and good independent judgment
- Fluent in both oral and written communications
- With excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Willing to travel or based anywhere in the Philippines

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Human Resources Department
2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

Deadline of submission of applications will be on April 28, 2005.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5119 Fax 8401461

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

DETAILED ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE BACHMAN-II INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM REFURBISHMENT PROJECT
EDC 05-033

The Approved Budget is PhP 19,961,200.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is two hundred seventy (270) calendar days.

The Eligibility Documents and the Bid Documents shall be available for issuance to contractors starting April 21, 2005 from the Contracts Administration Group / BAC Secretariat [c/o F.T. Tolibas (loc. 5179)] upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Five Thousand (PhP 5,000.00), or US Dolalr One Hundred Thirty (US$ 130.00) in case of foreign bidders to defray courier expenses.

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, interested bidders are invited to the pre-bid conference to be held on April 28, 2005 at the BAC Conference Room, Bldg. V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Site Inspection will be held (to be scheduled later) at the PNOC-EDC Bacman Geothermal Production Field, Brgy. Tublijon, Sorsogon.

The two (2) stage bidding procedure shall be employed. For the first stage, bidders shall submit their respective Letter of Intent, sealed Application for Eligibility and the initial Technical Proposal in three (3) sets to the Contracts Administration Group / BAC Secretariat, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, Energy Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines not later than 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2005. The bidder's Application for Eligibility and the initial Technical Proposal shall be evaluated and bidders who are eligible to bid will be notified by PNOC-EDC.

For the second stage, eligible bidders shall be required to submit their final Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal in two separate sealed envelopes. All bids submitted by eligible bidders must be accompanied by a bid security, callable on demand and valid for a period of One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days reckoned from the date of bid opening, for an amount of at least Philippine Peso One Hundred Ninety-Nine and Six Hundred Twelve (PhP 199,612.00), if in the form of cash, cashier's check / manager's check, or certified check; Philippine Peso Two Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen (PhP 299,418.00), if in the form of a bank guarantee; or Philippine Peso Four Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Thirty (PhP 499,030.00), if in the form of a surety bond. The bids must be delivered to:

Bids and Awards Committee
PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines

At or before 2:00 p.m. on July 28, 2005. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representative who chose to attend.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders on the ground of PNOC-EDC's action.

DELIVERY SCHEDULE - The Goods under this Invitation are required to be delivered within One Hundred Eighty (180) days upon receipt of the Letter of Credit. No credit will be given to earlier deliveries and bids offering delivery beyond one hundred eighty (180) days will be treated as non-responsive.

The Goods are considered to be delivered when all the items specified in the Contract have arrived at Manila Port or at any other location or port in the Philippine mutually agreed upon by the Bidder / Supplier and PNOC-EDC. Hence, the one hundred eighty (180) day delivery is inclusive or shipping time.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--April 21, 2005)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos.: 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for pre-qualification and submit sealed bids for the project:

Hauling of Coal and Other Bulk Cargo from PNOC EC BCT to Various Customers
(BT04-1267)

The Approved Budget for the Contract is Php 127,950,000.00 chargeable against PNOC EC funds. The contract duration is for one (1) year.

The Contractor shall provide dump trucks units (including drivers, helpers, spare parts, toll fees, fuel, lubricants and other materials) that will haul coal and other bulk cargo from PNOC EC Batangas Coal Terminal in Brgy. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas to our costumers in various locations.

Pre-qualification and bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Operation Services Group (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias or Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting **April 21, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Thousand Two Hundred (PHP 1,200.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) not later than 3:00 p.m. of **May 24, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **May 10, 2005**, 2:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC BCT in Brgy. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) Ernesto S. San Jose
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--April 21, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR YELLOW CORN ALLOCATION

The NFA Council has approved the importation of 100,000 metric tons yellow corn. All interested corn users who want to avail of the corn allocation should submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to the NFA and should be guided by the following:

1. The quality specification is yellow corngrains equivalent to US Grade No. 2 or better.
2. Arrival period is not later than June 2005. Disports are, Manila, Subic, ATI-Mariveles and Batangas.
3. A P0.50/kg service fee shall be charged by the NFA.
4. The cost of the imported yellow corn shall not be less than P10.00/kg, ex- 1st warehouse inclusive of the P0.50/kg service fee.
5. The 100,000 MT yellow corn shall be distributed by allocation to legitimate corn users registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).
6. The volume of allocation per category shall be as follows:

Category	Volume (In MT)
Hog Raisers	30,000
Poultry Raisers	35,000
Feedmillers	35,000

7. All interested corn users shall submit a Letter of Intent which shall include the total volume to be purchased, the preferred disport and the category to which the applicant shall be considered. It must also be supported by a BAI Certification issued by BAI Animal Feeds Standard Division, Diliman, Quezon City as of December 31, 2004 and a copy of the Board Resolution authorizing the individual to transact business for and in behalf of the company. All requests that do not contain the above requirements shall be rejected.
8. LOIs may also be submitted to the nearest NFA branch office by the interested corn buyers. The LOI must be received by the NFA branch office within the stated period and indicate the date and time it was received. Copies of the LOIs from the province may be faxed by the NFA branch office to the Marketing Operations Department.
9. The maximum volume to be allocated to the corn user shall be based on their three (3) months corn consumption requirements as reflected in the BAI certification.
10. Corn users shall be given a period of five (5) working days within which to submit their Letters of Intent after the last day of publication starting April 21-27, 2005.
11. A Commitment Fee/Performance Bond equivalent to P1.00/kg of the total volume allocated shall be paid by the corn user within three (3) days from the issuance of the Notice of Allocation. Payment shall be in Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check at NFA Central Office, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
12. Full payment of the corn allocated to the buyers plus the P0.50/kg service fee shall be undertaken within three (3) days upon issuance of the Notice of Payment. The Notice of Payment shall reflect the final selling price of NFA. If the country of origin of the corn is ASEAN/ASIAN, the Notice of Payment shall be issued upon NFA's receipt of the notice of completion of vessel loading. If the corn is from other sources other than ASEAN/ASIAN countries, the Notice of Payment shall be issued upon receipt of the shipping documents by the NFA.
13. The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the Government.
14. For further details you may secure a copy of the General Guidelines on the Importation and Disposition of Yellow Corngrains at the Marketing Operations Department, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City or may call at Tel Nos. 712-1572; 712-1926; 711-7433; 712-3341 to 54 loc. 8514 and 8515.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO Y. TAN, JR.**
Administrator

(PDI–April 20 & 21, 2005)

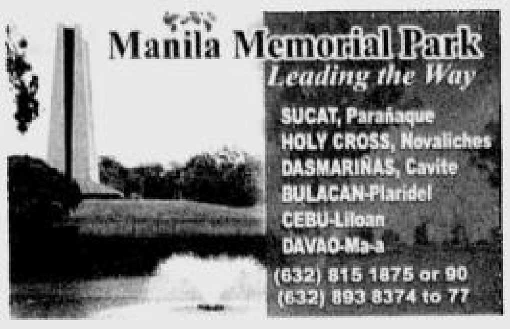
Biggest national judo championships in Cebu City

MORE than 200 judo jins from all over the Philippines will troop to Cebu City on April 22-24 for the 2005 Philippine National Individual Judo Championships (PNIJC). With the return of the national training pool members to their mother clubs and the entry of the best players from different regions, the 2005 PNIJC promises to be highly competitive.

The 2005 PNIJC may also be the best-organized national level championships in a long time. As promised, Philippine Sports Commission Acting Chairman Butch Ramirez extended prompt financial support. With PAJA able to set up early, it succeeded to invite corporate sponsors, such as San Miguel Corporation, University of San Carlos and Waterfront Hotel. As host of the event, Cebu City provides critical logistical support, such as venue and accommodation arrangements.

Medals in 16 weight categories, divided equally between the men's and women's divisions, will be settled in the USC gymnasium during the first two days of competition. The third day will be the "Battle of Champions," the overall openweight championships, participated in by gold and silver medalists in the 16 weight categories. Organizers will hold this premiere stage of the 2005 PNIJC that simulates Judo championship conditions in the 23rd SEA Games at the Grand Ballroom of Waterfront Hotel in Lahug.

Cebu City Sports Commission Chairman Jonathan Guardo asked the National Sports Associations of all SEA Games events, hosted by Cebu City this November, to hold a dry-run of their events. The Philippine Amateur Judo Association has been the first to respond. PAJA also earmarked its 2005 PNIJC as one of the major criteria for selecting members of the Philippine Judo Team for the 23rd SEA Games. With Cebu City's strategic location, regional participation may easily be an all-time high.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"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord make me secure..." Psalm 4:9

In Loving Memory
of our Dearly Beloved

DRA. JOSEFINA SALVADOR OCAMPO

Who peacefully joined her Creator
on April 14, 2005 at the age of 86.

Her bereaved children **Antonio & Teresita**, **Rebecca**, **Teodoro & Tess**, **Salvador**, **Irene & Daniel** and **Melo**; her grandchildren **Anthony & Astrid**, **Yvonne & Matt**, **Daffodil**, **Pamela**, **William**, **Joanna**, **Monica**, **Samantha**, **Raymond & Chase**; her great-grandchildren **Karl**, **Kurt**, **Keith**, **Karmel**, **Sophia**, **Steffani & Judiel** and her relatives request you to join them in sending her off with love and prayers and for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Anthony Parish Church in Iriga City, Camarines Sur. Interment will be on Sunday, April 24, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

May her soul rest in peace!

Antonino Santos Diaz

March 29, 1915 - April 20, 2005

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 90.

His loving wife **Fidelina**; his children and children-in-law **Dondi** and **Carol**, **Duddley**, **Dain** and **Bill**; grandchildren **Angelica** and **Brendan**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Santuario de San Jose Parish, corner Buffalo and Duke Sts., Greenhills East Subd., Mandaluyong City and will be transferred to Our Lady of Aranzazu Parish, San Mateo, Rizal tomorrow, April 22, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Interment follows at Paraiso Memorial Park, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Aranzazu Parish, San Mateo, Rizal.

"Even
when
I walk
through
a dark
valley,
I feel
no harm.
For you are
at my side,
your rod
and staff
give me
courage..."
Psalm 23:4

AGAPITA ALEJANDRO vda de PAGUIA

of Mandaluyong City & Imus, Cavite

Peacefully joined her Creator
on April 18, 2005 at the age of 100.

She is survived by her only son **Roland** & wife **Amada**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; brother **Juan**; and sister **Victoria**; nephews, nieces, other relatives & friends.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will take place on Saturday, at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City on April 23, 2005 at 11:00 a.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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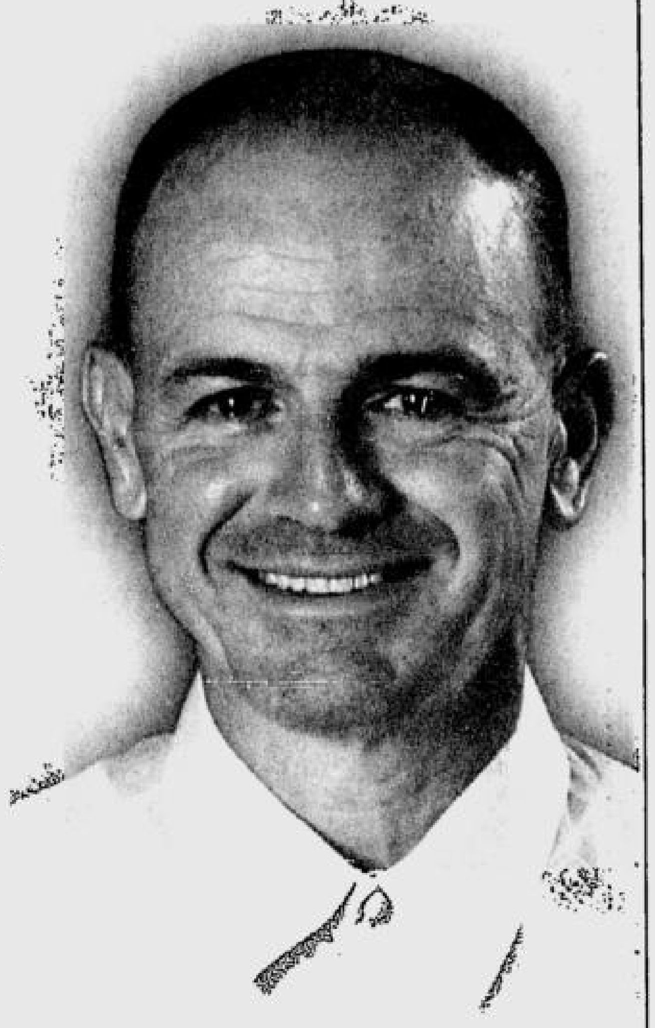
Salvador Pigem
1951-2005

Together with the family
of our beloved

Salvador Pigem

We, the employees of Nestlé
in the Philippines

Would like to invite all
who knew and loved him

To a

Memorial Mass

On Monday, April 25, 2005
At the Sanctuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati.

The mass will begin at 2pm.

Nestlé

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." — **Romans 8:38-39**

We remember dearly

CARLOS MIGUEL B. PALANCA

ON HIS 2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY
APRIL 22, 2005

Masses will be offered tomorrow, April 22, 2005 at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish .... 7:30 a.m.
Forbes Park, Makati

San Isidro Parish .... 6:00 a.m.
Taft Avenue, Manila

St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Susana Parish .... 6:00 a.m.
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila

BUSINESS

China companies pledge $1.5B in RP investments

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE CHINESE and Philippine governments expect to sign next week a number of bilateral cooperation and investment deals that will bring in at least $1.5 billion in fresh money to the Philippines.

The signing of the agreements is one of the highlights of the April 26-28 visit of Chinese Premier Hu Jintao to the country.

It will be Hu's first visit to the country.

Ambassador Jose E.B. Antonio, special envoy to the People's Republic of China, yesterday said in a forum organized by the Economic Corporate Network that the biggest investment deal involved the revival of the nickel refinery on Nonoc Island in Surigao del Norte by Jinchuan Nonferrous Metals Corp. and the Baosteel group, which would cost roughly $1 billion.

If it pushes through, it will be the single biggest Chinese investment in the Philippines.

Other major projects lined up for signing include the construction of a $300-million glass manufacturing plant in the former Subic naval base in Zambales, the development of a $25-million facility in Clark that will produce traditional Chinese medicine for the Asean market, and the joint exploration for oil and gas in the Calamian area off Northwest Palawan.

The government is also working on an agreement between the Metallurgical Group of China and Benguet Corp. to develop nickel reserves in Zambales. The project is expected to cost about $200 million.

Antonio said these agreements comprised the "first wave" of investments coming from China.

The Chinese and Philippine governments expect to sign additional bilateral agreements, the most of important of which was the memorandum of agreement between China's Ministry of Commerce and the Philippines' Department of Trade and Industry.

The agreement covers possible joint infrastructure cooperation in the areas of power, energy, railways, and port development.

He said Chinese firms were particularly interested in prospects in natural resource development because of the severe shortage of resources needed to fuel its rampaging economy, which has grown 60 percent in just five years.

China is the world's third biggest importer, consuming more than half of the world's cement production, and 36 percent of the world's steel. It is also one of the world's top consumers of crude oil.

(From left) FIGARO Coffee Co. CEO Pacita Juan, Senior Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino and Special Envoy to PROC Jose E.B. Antonio discuss investment prospects in China.

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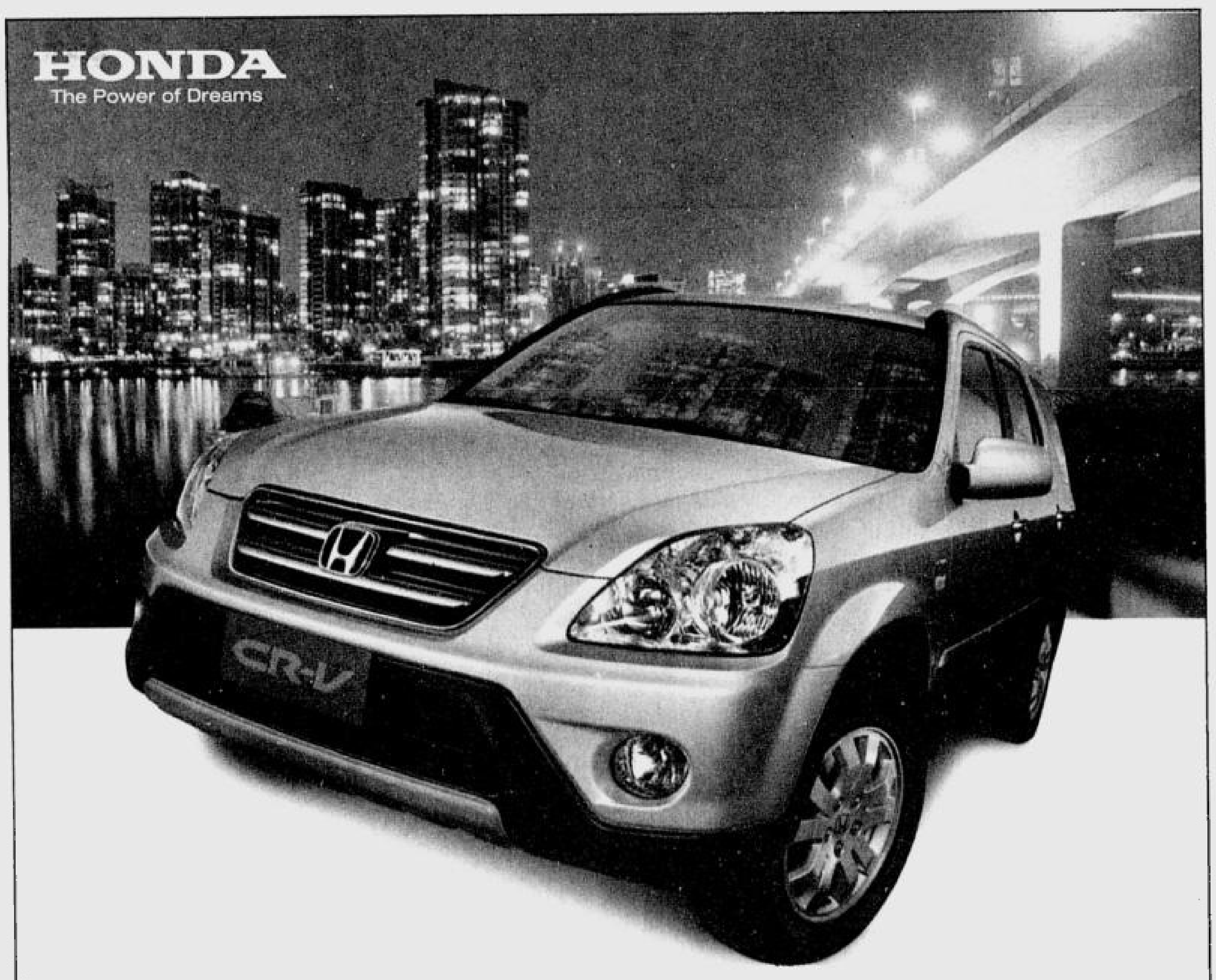

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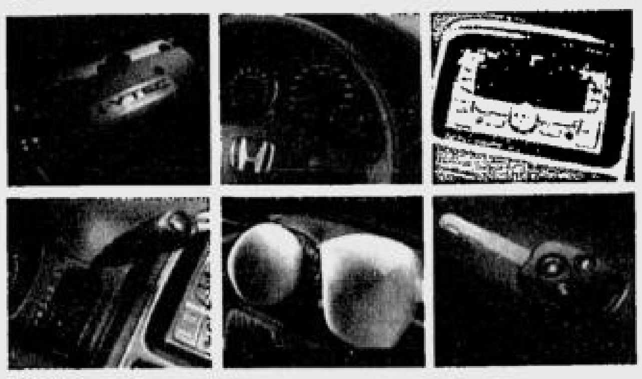

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5.0MM - 9,999,999	6.000	6.250	6.375	6.500
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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF YELLOW CORNGRAINS SALE THROUGH AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to invite all corn users to participate in the sale of Yellow Corngrains (YGN) through Auction in the following areas at the Floor Prices indicated beside the respective volume:

Region	Location of Stocks	Volume (in bags)	Floor Price/kg
I	Ilocos Sur Warehouse	425	P 8.80
III	Bataan/Nueva Ecija Warehouses	657	P 8.30
IV	Mamburao/San Jose Mindoro Warehouses	11,997	P 8.20
X	Bukidnon Warehouses	2,334	P 8.40
	Wao, Lanao Sur Warehouses	11,471	P 8.20

Conditions of Auction:

1. Buyers shall be corn users who are registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). A Certification from the BAI-Livestock Division, Diliman, Quezon City as of December 31, 2004 shall be submitted as one of the requirements that the corn users will have to comply with.
2. Sale shall be on ex-NFA warehouse, no selection basis. Offerors shall be required to post a Bid Bond in the form of Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check payable to NFA. The Bid Bond shall be equivalent to 10% of the value of the total volume bidded.

The Pre-Auction and Auction Conferences shall be conducted simultaneously at the concerned NFA Regional Offices with the following addresses and schedules until the whole volume for auction has been sold/exhausted:

NFA Region I
National Food Authority
San Juan, La Union
Tel. Nos. (072) 242-5907
(072) 242-5910

NFA Region III
National Food Authority
Maharlika Highway
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. Nos. (044) 463-1233,
(044) 600-0722

NFA Region IV
National Food Authority
Balagtas, Batangas City
Batangas
Tel. Nos (043) 402-0428
(043) 402-1878

NFA Region X
National Food Authority
Bgy. Tablon, Baloy
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 855-5936
(08822) 733460

Schedule:

Pre-Auction Conference	Time	Auction Conference	Time
April 27, 2005	10:00 AM	April 29, 2005	10:00 AM
May 05, 2005	10:00 AM	May 09, 2005	10:00 AM

Interested bidders may secure the Terms and Conditions starting April 27, 2005 at the respective aforementioned NFA Regional Offices. However, NFA Central Office will also accept bids on the scheduled time and date of Auction at the NFA Boardroom, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr Ave., Quezon City. For inquiries, please contact Ms. Espie Tecson at Telephone Numbers 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bid documents will be available April 27, 2005 to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) CONRADO DL. IBAÑEZ
Assistant Administrator

(PDI – April 21 & 22, 2005)

LIFESTYLE

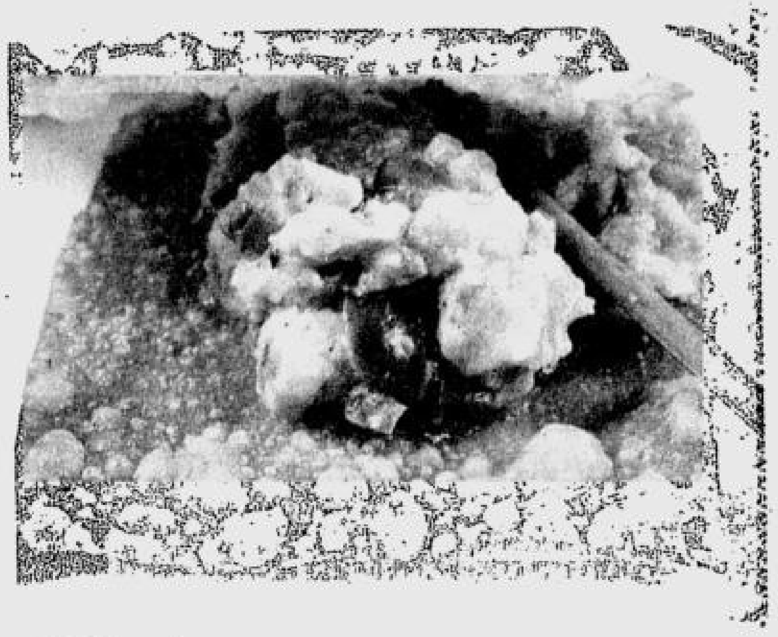
sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

MESCULIN and Mustard Greens Salad RAFFY LERMA

LEMON Tart with Chocolate Pistachio Crust RAFFY LERMA



TUNA Tartare

LAPU-LAPU Filet on Wasabi Mashed Potatoes

How Toogy is spending his summer vacation

Top of the Citi's guest chef for the ongoing Kusine event is serving French-Filipino dishes colored by his memories of the season

By Gino de la Paz
Contributor

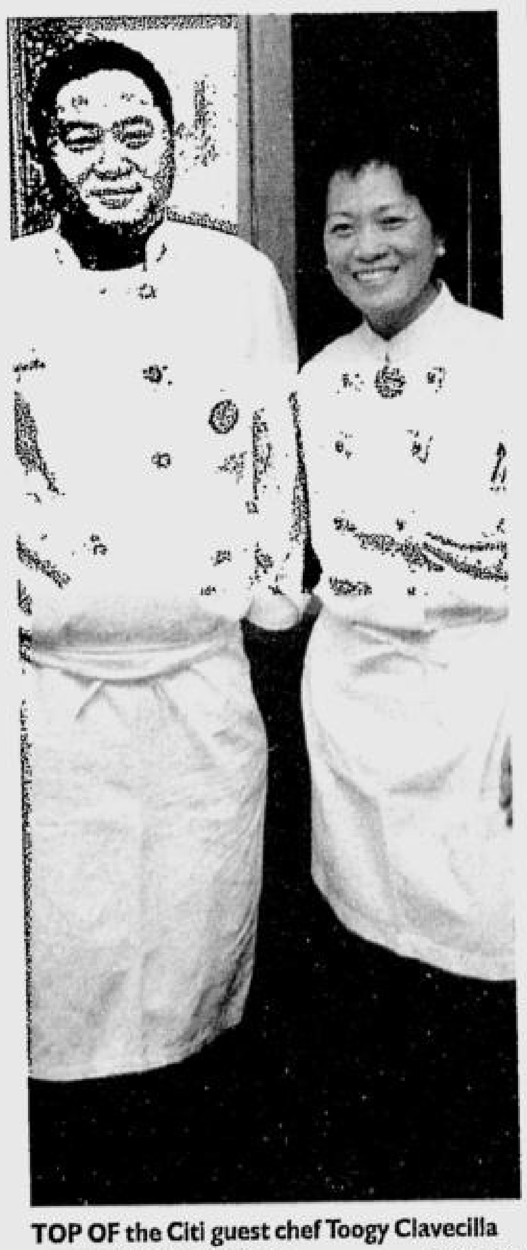
SAY the word "summer" and what immediately comes to mind?

For young chef Toogy Clavecilla, the hot, sticky months mean local citrus. "When I think of summer, I immediately think of *calamansi* and *suha*, a citrus fruit found in Cagayan de Oro."

His youth brings something else to mind. "The second thing I think about is alcohol on the beach." Ah, that's more like it.

In case you're wondering, Clavecilla is Top of the Citi's guest chef until May 13. Kusine, a

HOW TOOGY/ C2



TOP OF the Citi guest chef Toogy Clavecilla and chef Jessie Sincioco RAFFY LERMA

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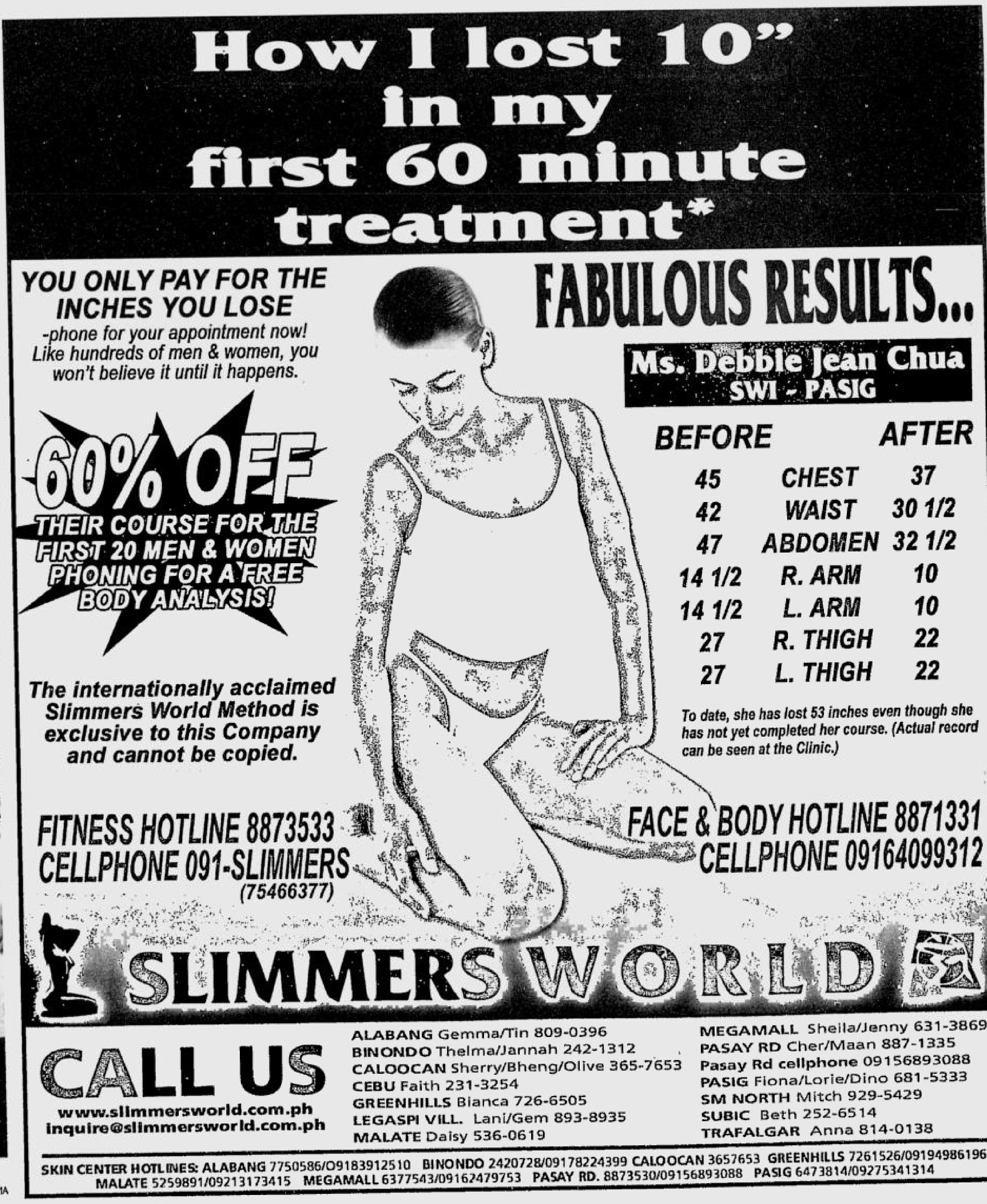

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42	WAIST	30 1/2
47	ABDOMEN	32 1/2
14 1/2	R. ARM	10
14 1/2	L. ARM	10
27	R. THIGH	22
27	L. THIGH	22

To date, she has lost 53 inches even though she has not yet completed her course. (Actual record can be seen at the Clinic.)

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(75466377)

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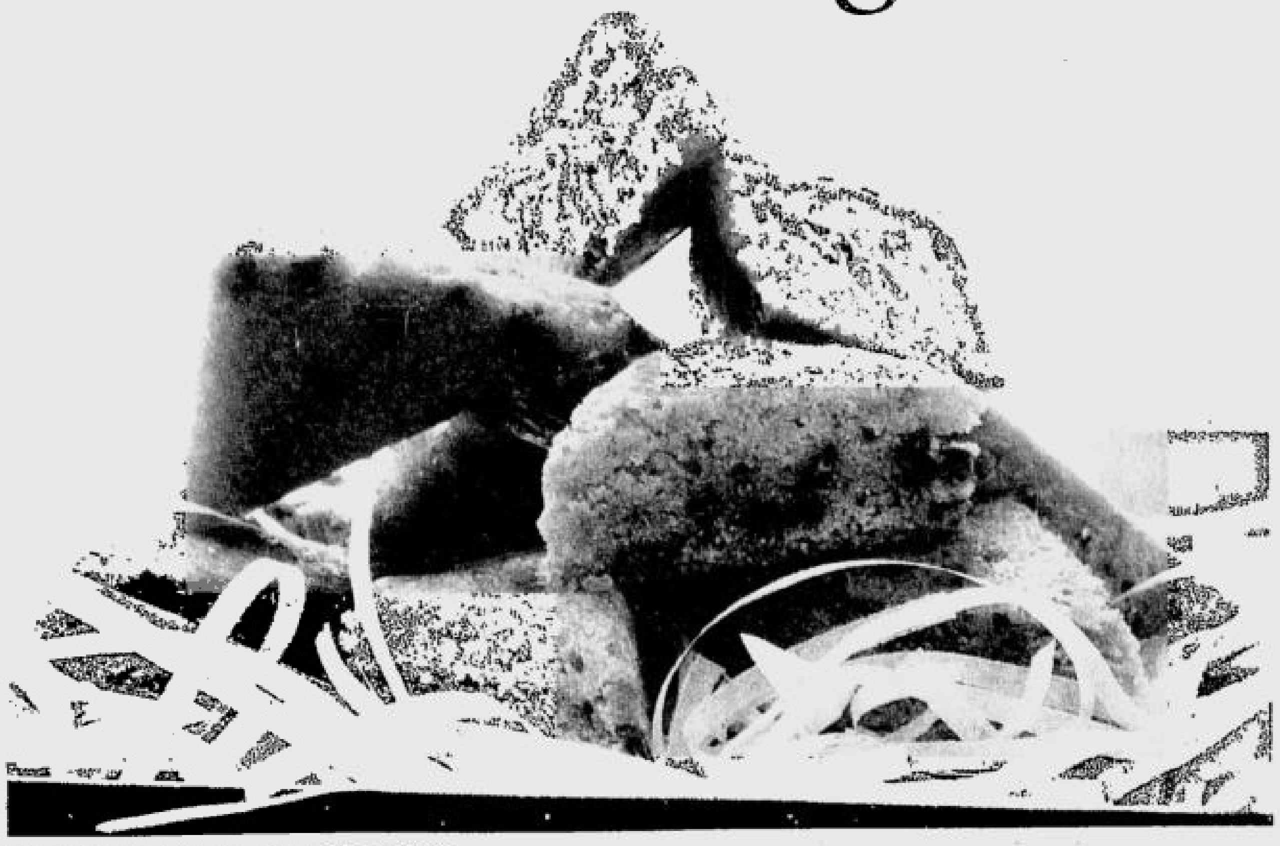
For families to bake together

CULINARY expert Dorothy Ferreria teaches how parents and children can bake together perfect pastries using Glad Bake.

The non-stick baking paper can be used in conventional and microwave ovens. Ferreria says Glad Bake ensures that baked goods have just the right taste—no "waxy" aftertaste and the paper does not stick to the cookies.

It makes cleaning up afterwards easier as it prevents having burnt, sticky baking pans.

Meanwhile, Ferreria's Traveling Cooking School will hold classes April 21, 23, 24, 26 and 29 at the Buffet Plaza, Victoria Plaza Compound, Davao City. Call 2223494.

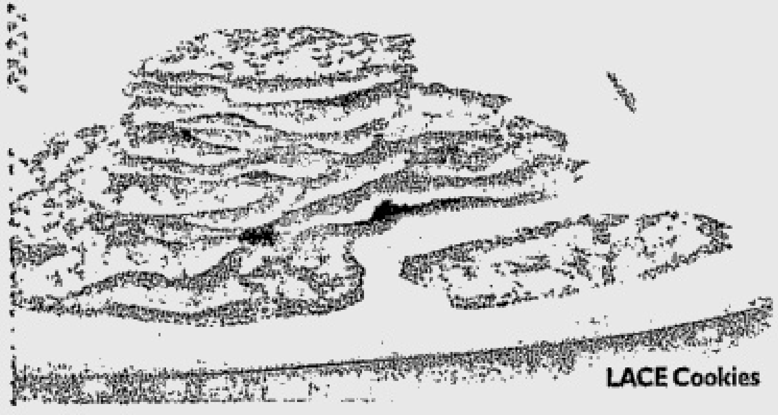

BUTTERSCOTCH Bars with Choco Chips

Lace Cookies

¼ c butter
¼ c white sugar
3 tbsp light corn syrup
½ c sifted all-purpose flour

Preheat the oven to 350° Fahrenheit. Line several cookie sheets with Glad Bake Paper.

In a medium mixing bowl using an electric mixer, beat the butter and the sugar until blended. Pour in corn syrup and flour, and beat only until combined. Transfer the mixture to a pastry bag fitted with a small plain tip (#1 or #2). Pipe out the mixture onto prepared cookie sheets leaving at least 2-inch allowance around each piece. Bake for 7 minutes or until light golden brown.


LACE Cookies

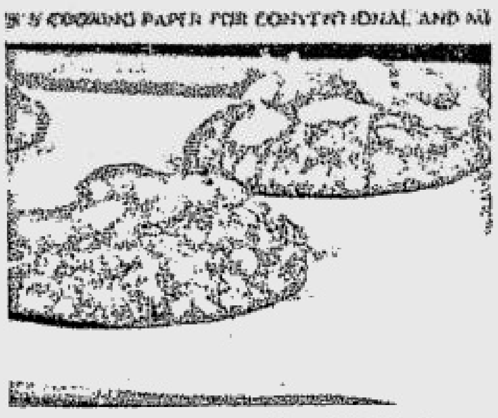
Butterscotch Bars with Choco Chips

1 c butter, melted
¾ c well-packed dark brown sugar
½ c white sugar
2 tbsp light corn syrup
2 whole eggs, graded extra large
1 ½ c sifted all-purpose flour
¼ tsp sifted baking soda
½ tsp fine salt
1 c chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 350° Fahrenheit. Line the interior of a 7x11 inches rectangular baking pan with Glad Bake Paper. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, pour in butter, brown sugar, white sugar and corn syrup. Mix well with a wire whip until blended. Add the eggs and beat until blended. Lastly, pour in the rest of the ingredients. Beat only until combined.

Pour the cookie batter to the prepared baking pan. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in all four corners of the pan comes out clean. Allow to cool completely before cutting into bars. Overnight chilling is highly recommended.


WHITE Choco Chip cookies with Dried Mangoes and Cashew

White Choco Chip Cookies with Dried Mangoes and Cashew

½ c baker's margarine
¾ c well-packed dark brown sugar
1 tbsp light corn syrup
1 egg
1 c sifted all-purpose flour
1 c old-fashioned oatmeal
½ tsp sifted baking powder
½ tsp sifted baking soda
1/8 tsp fine salt
½ tsp cinnamon powder
1/3 c white chocolate chips
1/3 c chopped dried mangoes
1/3 cup chopped cashew nuts

Preheat the oven to 350° Fahrenheit.

Line cookie sheets with Glad Bake Paper. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, pour in all of the ingredients needed for the cookie batter. With clean hands, mash the ingredients until blended. A hand mixer or a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment may also be used.

Chill the cookie batter in the refrigerator for about 30 minutes or until it becomes easy to handle. Divide the cookie dough into 35 equal portions or into 20-gram pieces for uniformity in size. Form into balls.

Arrange the cookies in the prepared baking pans, 2 inches apart. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until the edges are light golden brown. It is better to underbake than to overbake the cookies for a chewy consistency.

Allow the cookies to cool in the baking pan for about 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Not your usual fried chicken

CHEF Jun Jun de Guzman creates exclusively for Lea & Perrins a chicken dish to enjoy on lazy days in the hot months ahead.

The dipping sauce of catsup, with a dash of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce, helps make the recipe even more special.

Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce is another product of HP Foods Ltd. of the United Kingdom.

Crispy Chicken with Perrins Ranch Dip

Ingredients:
1 pc whole chicken, cut into 12-14 pcs
1 tbsp calamansi juice (from about 3 pcs)
1 tsp fine salt
½ tsp ground pepper
1 tbsp soy sauce
½ tsp minced garlic
¾ tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp sugar
1 c all-purpose flour (for breading)
2 1/2 c vegetable oil for frying

Procedure:

Pat chicken pieces dry with paper towels. Set aside. Mix *calamansi* juice, salt, ground pepper, soy sauce, minced garlic, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire sauce and sugar in a bowl. Add in chicken pieces, and marinate for 30 minutes at room temperature or in the refrigerator. Heat oil in a deep saucepan. Dredge chicken pieces in flour. Fry until golden brown. Drain. Continue until all chicken pieces are cooked. Make dressing. Serve immediately.

Perrins Ranch Dip

Ingredients:
1 c mayonnaise
¼ c evaporated milk
1 tbsp cane vinegar
¼ tsp onion powder
¼ tsp garlic powder
1 tsp dried oregano flakes
½ tsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
dash of cayenne pepper

Procedure:

Mix evaporated milk and cane vinegar. Set aside. Stir together mayonnaise, onion powder, garlic powder, oregano flakes, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce and cayenne pepper. Pour in milk mixture. Season to taste. Serve with fried chicken pieces.

How Toogy is spending his summer vacation

From page C1

play on the words cuisine and *kusina*, is his month-long journey into French-Filipino cooking, colored by those two distinct summertime memories.

"I've incorporated a lot of citrus flavors into the food. I have also added our local spirits and beers into the menu. I am out to prove wrong whoever said Filipino food would never be recognized due to lack of sophistication. Sophistication is relative. It's flavor that is important," he says.

Clavecilla began his culinary career at the Ortigas branch of Le Soufflé a few years ago. After graduating from the Culinary Institute of America, he trained at the Lutèce Restaurant and the Sheraton Hotel, both in New York.

His mentor, Jessie Sincioco, is extremely enthusiastic on his debut. "I've known Toogy since he started and I have the highest confidence in his abilities as a chef. That's why I invited him to guest at Top of the Citi," says Sincioco.

Family affair

Kusine is a family affair. Lea, Clavecilla's older sister who works in London as a parliamentary lobbyist, jumpstarted the event. When Sincioco and Clavecilla firmed up the dates for Kusine, Lea sent text messages to their cousins.

"Do you love Butterball?" Butterball, you see, is the family's term of endearment for Clavecilla. Half-jokingly, they answered, "It depends." But, of course, the cousins were all out in supporting the young chef.

"Like most Filipino families, we just all love to eat! We're pretty lucky to be able to pool together all our ideas and just have fun working as a team," says Ria de Borja, Clavecilla's cousin who handles public relations. "As it happens, our professions and interests complement this event."

Other cousins, sisters Tisha de Borja and Ana de Borja-Araneta, got their inspiration for the menu from the chef's citrus-theme concept. Araneta of Market Street Graphics, and Tisha, who has her own architectural firm, Archipelago, wanted images associated with the season and with a refreshing quality.

As a result, Kusine's invitations and posters have a very cohesive and compelling graphic identity.

Another De Borja, Dindin, invited Isa Lorenzo of Silver Lens Gallery to mount a photo exhibit to coincide with Kusine, the first at Top of the Citi Le Soufflé.

Clavecilla's mom, Carmen de Borja Clavecilla, coordinated all the family's efforts. Leny de Borja, an aunt who is a chef in her own right, contributed one of her own recipes, Illi's Bone Marrow. She has been helping the chef in the kitchen as well.

Being surrounded by relatives helps a lot because Kusine is Clavecilla's first project since coming home in January.

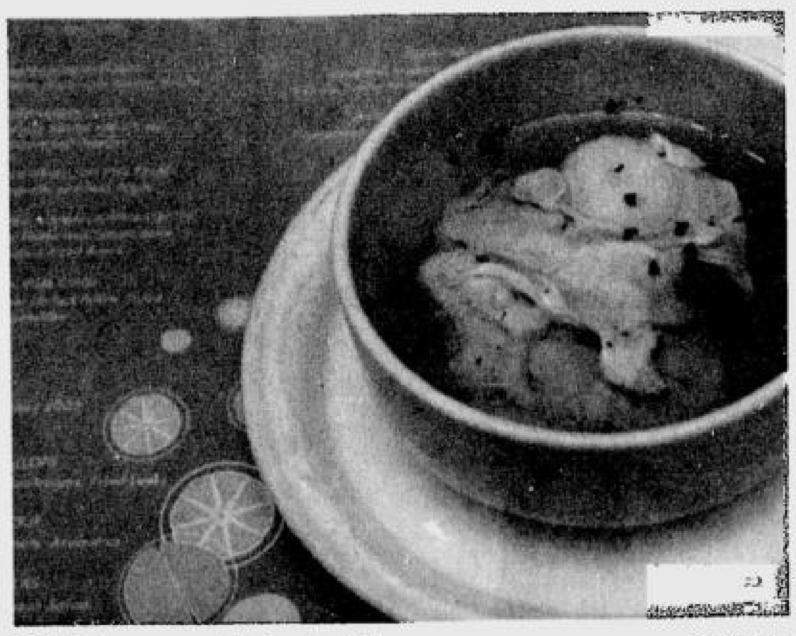
"While training in Lutèce, I discovered the wonderfully delicate way that French food could be prepared," he says. "But I love being home because my friends and family enjoy food and San Miguel! And somehow the food just tastes better when there is love and friendship around the table."

Kusine runs until May 13 at Top of the Citi. Table arrangements by Pato Corp. Event management, graphic design and music are by Market Street Graphics, Audiences for the Arts and Manouk. Top of the Citi is open from 6-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, and to Citibank Condo Club members from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 8947461, 7505810 or 7505812.

BRAISED Lamb Shank, Sauteed Kangkong, Bihod Risotto

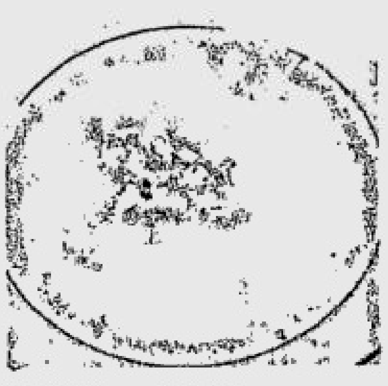
RAFFY LERMA

FOOD preparation


BEEF Consomme with Poached Egg

RAFFY LERMA

CRISPY Fish Salad


COLD Avocado Soup

Renaissance for local fabrics and natural dyes?

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

LOCAL textile manufacturers may yet see their future brighter in an industry that has been dominated by importers for many, many years.

The same may be said for natural dye processors who have come a long way since 1897. That was the year synthetic indigo replaced natural dyes of vegetable origin, according to researchers of the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI).

Imported fabric and dyes, mostly synthetic, have taken command of the market because they're cheaper and more readily available than natural products. But most consumers do not know that synthetic products have several disadvantages.

Many kinds of dyes, for example, are now banned in Europe because of their adverse effects on people's health.

The local textile industry is getting a big boost from the newly approved law that will make it compulsory for government workers to wear uniform made of Philippine tropical fabrics. Republic Act 9242 takes effect after the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) are formulated. It is known by its lengthy title as, "An Act Prescribing the Use of Philippine Tropical Fabrics for Uniforms of Public Officials and for Other Purposes."

How long it will take to draw up the IRR is anybody's guess. But, to set an example, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) will start wearing uniforms made of Philippine tropical fabrics starting June. As a rule, the fabric will have to contain at least five percent (by weight) of either *abaca*, banana and pineapple fibers, and 15 percent silk.

PTRI, one of the agencies of DOST, will conduct the mandatory testing of fabrics. It will then certify garment manufacturers, textile producers and fabric suppliers that want to bid for the uniforms.

In passing, I thank PTRI director Carlos C. Tomboc for sending me a copy of the agency's latest publication, "The Human Face of PTRI-S&T Interventions." The title may not be appealing in contrast with the interesting stories throughout the pages. They're well stocked with touching stories about the folks who were assisted by PTRI technologies to develop their indigenous crafts of weaving and dyeing.

The opening story, for example is about how *Manang* Mary impressed fashion designer Patis Tesoro with her Ifugao art of weaving and natural dyeing.

Other stories that follow are about natural dyeing in Abra, silkworm culture in Benguet, abaca weaving in Bicol, piña handloom weaving in Aklan, raffia fiber processing in Bohol and many more.

Call DOST mediacore at 8371349.

Unwanted messages

"Grossly unfair to PLDT subscribers" was how Ma. Aurora Saenz called the promo feature Premium 101-123 Love Messages which, she said, was activated on her phone without her knowledge. She only discovered the feature when she got her bill and found out she was charged P53.57 (excluding tax) for the feature. Her mother, likewise, was billed for the same thing.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company explained to us that the special feature was pre-activated for all postpaid lines during the promo last February. "However, a call through was conducted to advise customers that if they are not willing to avail of it then they may call 171 for deactivation," PLDT said.

The latest feedback from PLDT was that the unwanted Love Notes had been deactivated in the subscriber's phone. Charges for the feature were going to be deducted from her next bill.

Ma. Aurora's parting words for PLDT: "In the future, I would appreciate being informed before such a feature is activated on my line, more so because it entails a charge for something that—pardon the candor—is extremely annoying."

Call PLDT 171 or e-mail customers@pldt.com.ph

Cable trouble in Singalong

Here is a reminder to PLDT repair department from subscriber L. Bolido (acct. no. 0004700368). Some 100 telephone lines in a big neighborhood in Singalong, Malate, have been out of commission since the morning of April 15. As of this writing, technicians are still confirming preliminary findings that some cable lines may have been stolen.

In the meantime, some subscribers, who pay their bills by phone, including PLDT's, are complaining that they have to skip work to go to pay centers.

Catering basics

MAYA Kitchen will conduct a seminar on catering, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., April 22-23.

Learn the legal and technical aspects of starting a catering business, including menu portioning and quantification. Prepare popular Filipino and international dishes: Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup, Baked Spring Rolls, Rolled Porkloin Adobo Style, Roast Stuffed Chicken Thighs with Garlic Gravy, Chicken Galantina, Vegetable Samosa, Creamed Spinach Soup, Spicy Chicken Wings, Quiche Lorraine and Eggplant Skordalia.

Two seminars will be conducted April 26-29. Cooking II at 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. will teach foundational techniques of cooking. It covers review of basic culinary principles; meal management; knowledge of herbs, spices and condiments; basic maintenance and preservation of food (proper receiving, storage and preparation); menu planning, kitchen accounting and recipe formulation; actual workshop on international cuisine; ethnic cooking, hors-d'oeuvre, salads, cooked/ cured foods, desserts and market basket.

At 2-5:30 p.m., Baking II will include baking ingredients and their functions, baker's percentage/math, commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies, cakes, pastries, bakery products including costing and batching.

Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Summer pair

DOME Café patrons and coffee lovers will get a summer treat until May. Every order of a cup of coffee will be accompanied by a free mini-muffin.

Dome's coffee varieties include espresso, cappuccino, macchiato, mocha or café Vienna. They are made from high quality Australian arabica beans.

The promo is available at Dome Café in Shangri-La Mall, The Podium, Greenbelt 3 and Solid Mills building in Makati, any time of the day.

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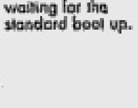
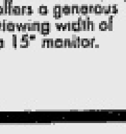
HP recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.

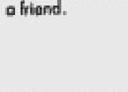


With HP QuickPlay, you can enjoy music and movies without waiting for the standard boot up.

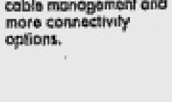
IR remote control conveniently stores in the PC Card slot.



High-definition 14" BrightView widescreen display offers a generous viewing width of a 15" monitor.



Dual headphone jacks allow you to share the entertainment with a friend.



HP Expansion Base provides desktop convenience with easy cable management and more connectivity options.

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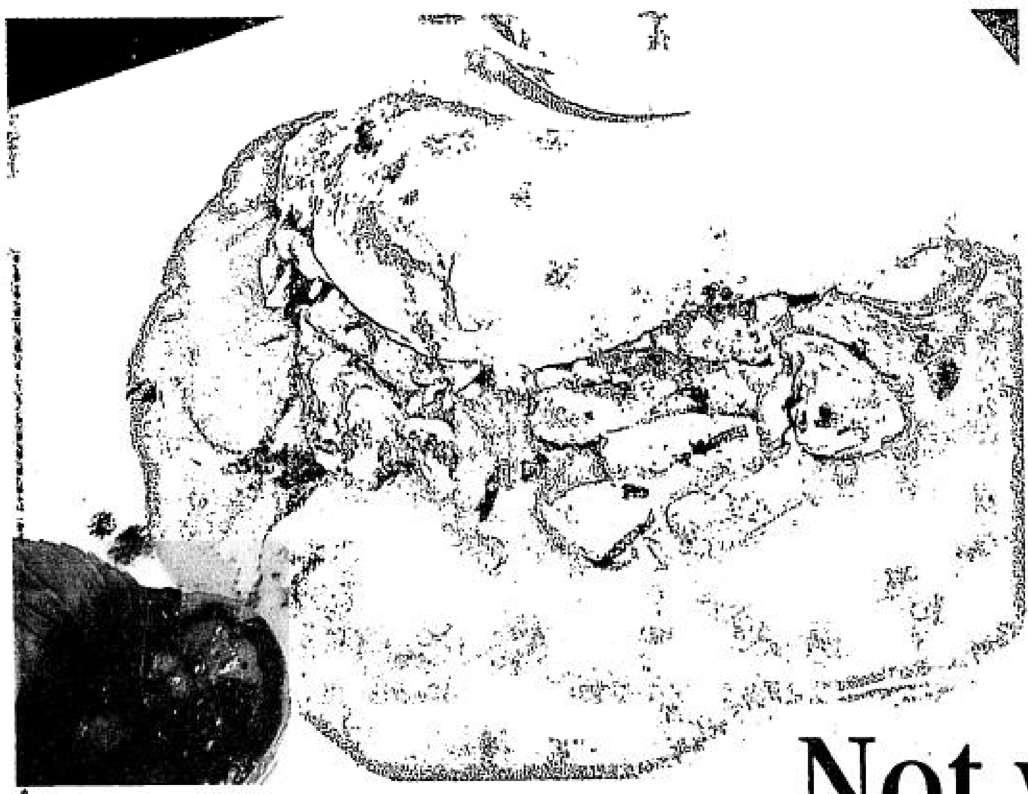
Not your ordinary breakfast



GREEN Curry Chicken Omelet

BIG Country Breakfast

M CAFÉ now serves breakfast, offering some out-of-the-ordinary fare, often with seasonal twists.

People who want something easy and sweet may enjoy the Belgian Waffle served with tangy mixed berries and whipped cream or the Banana Peanut Butter Pancake with garnishes like seasonal fruits, maple syrup, whipped cream and peanut butter complemented with hot chocolate or fresh milk.

Those into the Atkins diet can have Green Curry Chicken Omelet or go for the Big Country Breakfast of eggs, potatoes, bacon and toast with jam and butter.

Filipino breakfast may be a plateful of *tapa*, Chinese sweet ham and *daing na bangus* or smoked *longanisa* with eggs, garlic fried rice and *atchara*.

Other unique choices are M Benedict, a choice of Chinese sweet ham or smoked salmon with asparagus and hollandaise sauce; and Beef Tenderloin Congee accompanied by spring onions, country egg and nuts.

M Café has a selection of aromatic coffee, fresh juices and cool blended refreshers to go with any breakfast.

M Café serves breakfast from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. daily. A new menu and summer offering are also available. Call 7573000 or 7576000.

FRESH Fruits in Season

Sauces and roasts

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will hold the following classes:

April 22—Teriyaki (all new): Learn the secrets to perfect teriyaki sauce—4-sauce variations. Chicken, salmon, burgers, steak, pork chops, whole roasted U.S. hanger tender (delicious marinated whole hanger tender slabs)

April 23—Perfect Roast 101: Learn the secrets to perfect and succulent roasts-Angus Rib-eye Roast with Wild Mushroom Gravy and Fruit Jam with Roasted Vegetables, Chicken Roasted 3 Ways (garlic, mushroom-stuffed and herbed olive oil-injected), Lamb Leg with 4 Sauces, Traditional Roast Pork with Sauces, side dishes and dessert

April 25—*Gata* (all new): *Kare-kare sa Gata* with *Guisadong Bagoong*, Guinataang Talong, *Guinataang Bulaklak ng Saging*, Perfect *Lechon Kawali* with *Guinatang Kalabasa* Sauce, Fried *Hito* with Home-made Balo-Balao, Cassava *Bibingka*

April 27—Italian 101 (all new): Minestrone, Seafood Salad, Osso Bucco with Risotto Milanese, Bistecca Fiorentina, Classic Italian Ragu, Tiramisu

For inquiries and reservations, call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744 or 0917-8399888.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE

TOOGY's summer /C1

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Dissenting opinion

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

LAST week's column elicited a lot of mail, including this reader response.

Read your article last week. I think you're too bias[ed] for ISCAHM. I think you're (on) their payroll. Met people that went to (that) school and gave real bad comments. Babaran, for instance, can't even speak. Be a good writer and don't write things only because you're paid to do so.

0917-5397443, 04-15-05

If you had read the column, I asked 16 of the most respected names in the industry to answer the question: If you were to go to a professional chef's school in the Philippines, where would you go and why?

I excluded myself from the equation precisely to present none of my biases. Gathering vital information, relaying it as it is and giving the readers the option to decide what information they choose to keep and what to discard, are what I think responsible journalism is about.

Free country

Regarding the people you've met who went to ISCAHM and gave "real bad comments," I'm sorry they feel that way but it's a free country, I respect your opinion as well as theirs. There's no pleasing everybody.

What's heartbreaking though is the attitude you have toward your own, like chef Ernie Babaran whom you claim cannot even speak.

I am standing up for Manong Ernie, a simple man who happens to be one of the best Pinoy pastry chefs. I don't know if you read the series I did on Pinoy chefs who didn't go to chef's school yet succeeded. In case you didn't, Manong Ernie started in the province, making sweet bread to earn a living. From there he worked his way up, landing a job in a hotel and the rest is history.

These are stories that I am very proud of as a Filipino; these are the stories that inspire me and I will keep telling them whether you agree with me or not! Having Manong Ernie in a business that is greatly influenced by foreign chefs is something we should take pride in!

About him not being able to speak, well, he definitely isn't mute! He can speak! But if you are referring to his command of the English language, that is totally unfair.

He is passing on a skill after all, and to judge his person and his talent based on whether or not he can speak fluently in English, or distinguish onomatopoeia from oxymoron, is, I say, foul! He teaches Filipinos but even foreign chefs who work with him find no language barriers between them!

I wonder if you would feel the same way about a Frenchman who spoke no word of English? Did Michelangelo have to be fluent in English to paint such beautiful masterpieces?

Integrity

I will risk sounding arrogant, forgive me. But my integrity, that of Kitchen Rescue and the INQUIRER's must be defended!

I am not on anyone's payroll! Luckily, all my life—up to this day—I've been blessed with more than enough!

I would be more than willing to give you a list of everyone I've written about from the very beginning so you may ask each and every one of them if I ever exchanged favors for a column or if any of them ever gave me a single cent!

Good writing

About me being a good writer... I never claimed to be good! My only desire is to bring joy to your homes through good food. I make no exceptions. *Foie gras, puto, kuchinta*, chef, Manang, Smeg Oven, Joy Charcoal Stove—I write about things that excite me, that make me happy!

I want nothing more than to share these little joys and experiences with you, in the process helping you with your cooking dilemmas and lauding those who try to do well, who strive to excel, those deserving of recognition for their contributions to the world of food that otherwise would go unnoticed.

Savarin once said: "To invite someone is to take charge of their happiness during the time he spends under your roof!" In the same breath, while you're reading KR, I am in charge of your happiness. That's the reason I give you all that I know and, when I don't or am in doubt, I set such inquiries aside for future articles when I've done my research or till I've come across people more learned on the subject.

My loyalty is to my readers. And, while I am doing this column, I will continue to give you all that I know. When I fail, forgive me, I am human. But the best of me to you—this is all I can offer!

Next week

I was supposed to feature South Beach queen Margarita Fores but to put her on the same issue with me acting like Gabriela Silang would not be proper. Next week, Margarita answers your South Beach questions and your requests for my recipes for low-fat salad dressings.

On a lighter note

For now, no space for questions, just discoveries: Cheap Australian pre-seasoned steaks and lamb! No need to defrost, just grill, comes with gravy! (Sandy R., 7275013); Baby Cakes that make for cute baby shower and newborn gifts filled with baby items (0917-5300866 or 8131409).

For questions and comments, text 0917-8399888.

AT BABY Cakes, choose from two- or three-tier handmade cakes in pink, blue or neutral. Each comes with a recipe card.

This column tries to help with readers' kitchen problems and lauds those whose contributions to the world of food would otherwise go unnoticed

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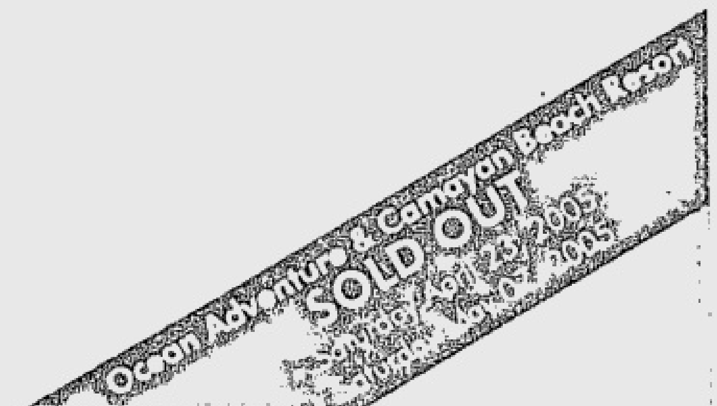

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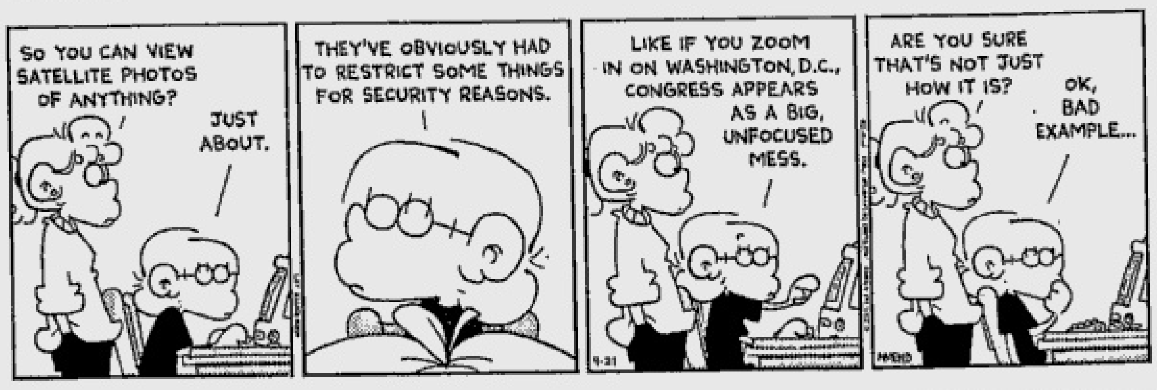
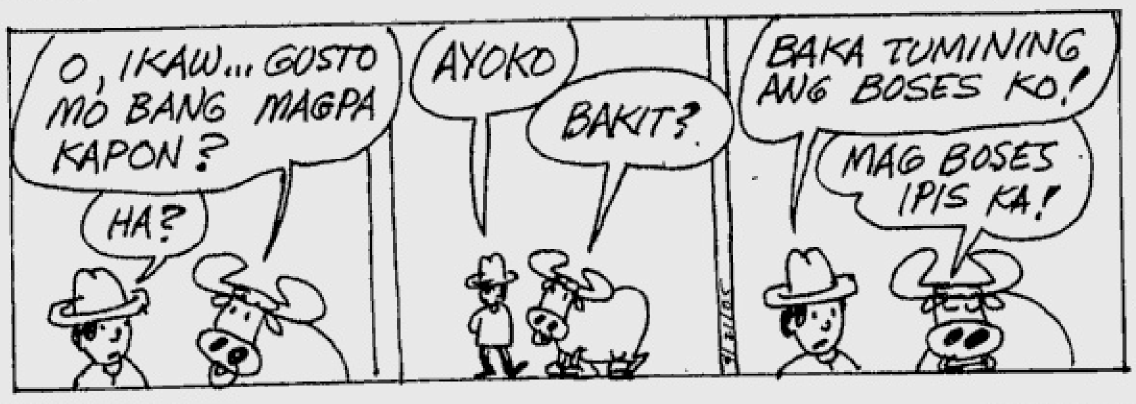
New hotel to open soon.

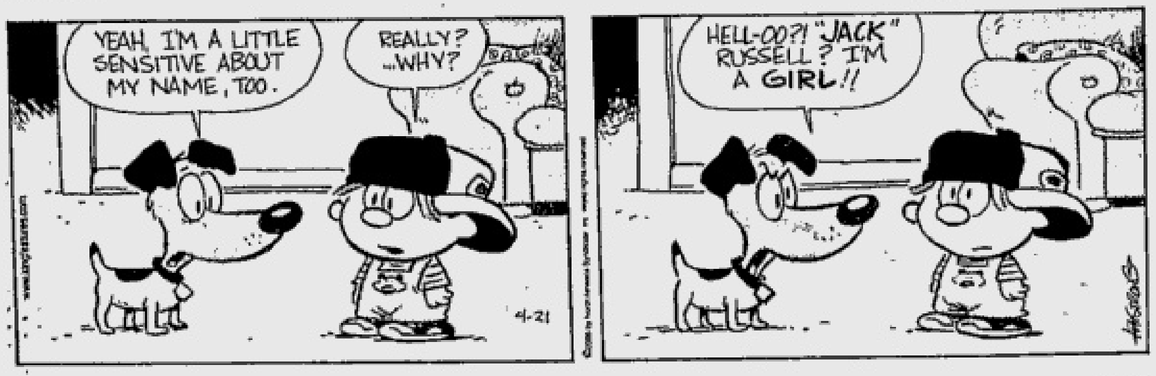
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


SO YOU CAN VIEW SATELLITE PHOTOS OF ANYTHING?
JUST ABOUT.
THEY'VE OBVIOUSLY HAD TO RESTRICT SOME THINGS FOR SECURITY REASONS.
LIKE IF YOU ZOOM IN ON WASHINGTON, D.C., CONGRESS APPEARS AS A BIG, UNFOCUSED MESS.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S NOT JUST HOW IT IS?
OK, BAD EXAMPLE...
4-21

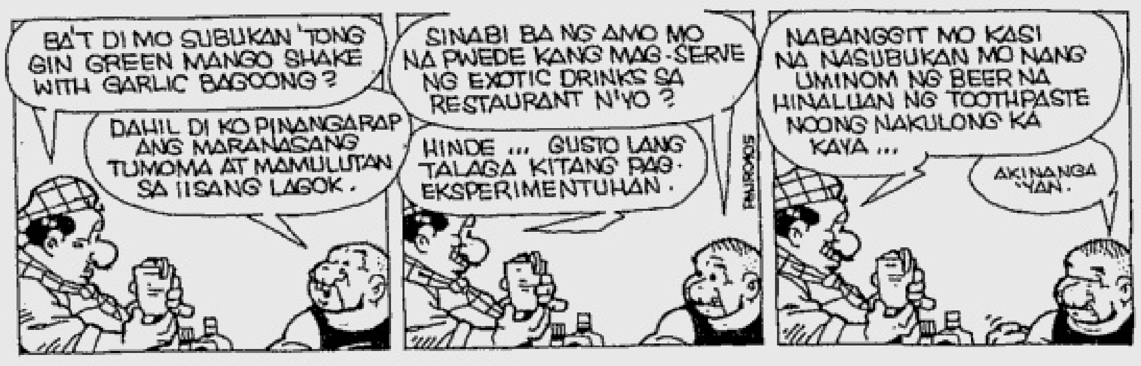
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


O, IKAW... GUSTO MO BANG MAGPA KAPON?
HA?
AYOKO
BAKIT?
BAKA TUMINING ANG BOSES KO!
MAG BOSES IPIS KA!

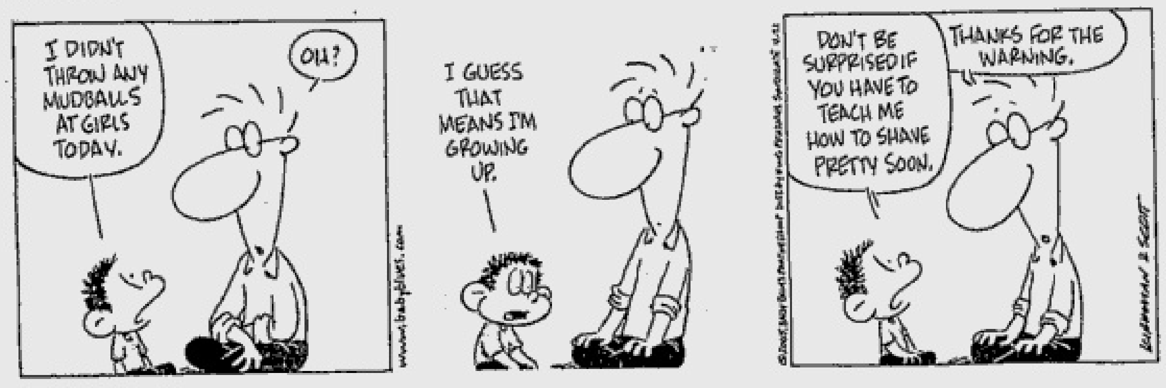
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YEAH, I'M A LITTLE SENSITIVE ABOUT MY NAME, TOO.
REALLY? ..WHY?
4-21
HELL-OO?! "JACK" RUSSELL? I'M A GIRL!!

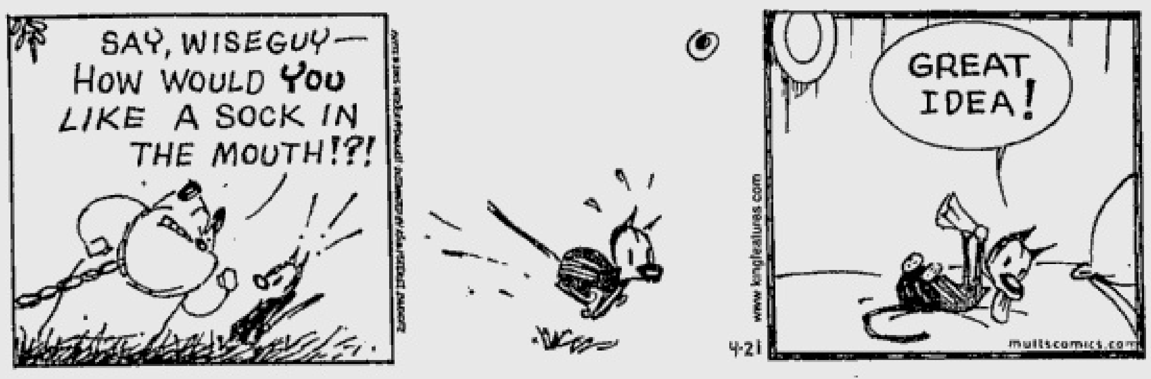
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


BA'T DI MO SUBUKAN 'TONG GIN GREEN MANGO SHAKE WITH GARLIC BAGOONG?
DAHIL DI KO PINANGARAP ANG MARANASANG TUMOMA AT MAMULUTAN SA IISANG LAGOK.
SINABI BA NG AMO MO NA PWEDE KANG MAG-SERVE NG EXOTIC DRINKS SA RESTAURANT N'YO?
HINDE ... GUSTO LANG TALAGA KITANG PAG-EKSPERIMENTUHAN.
NABANGGIT MO KASI NA NASUBUKAN MO NANG UMINOM NG BEER NA HINALUAN NG TOOTHPASTE NOONG NAKULONG KA KAYA ...
AKINANGA 'YAN.

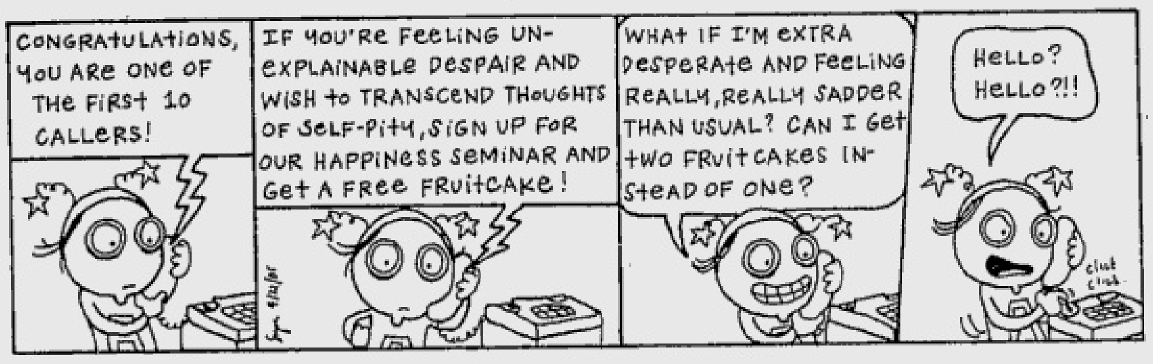
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


I DIDN'T THROW ANY MUDBALLS AT GIRLS TODAY.
OH?
I GUESS THAT MEANS I'M GROWING UP.
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU HAVE TO TEACH ME HOW TO SHAVE PRETTY SOON.
THANKS FOR THE WARNING.

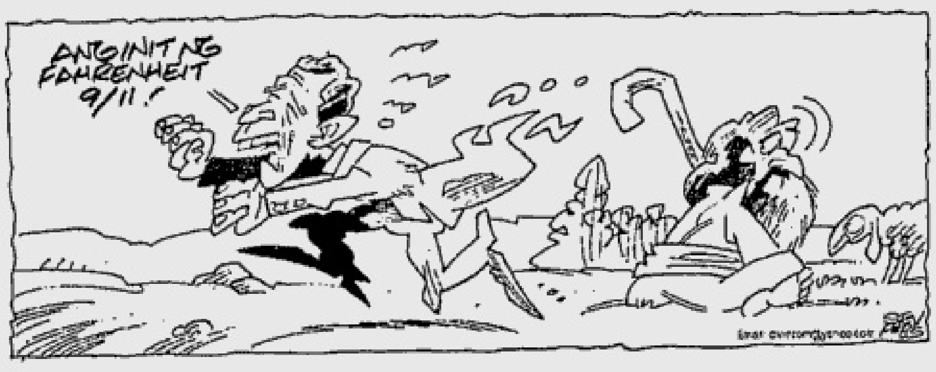
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SAY, WISEGUY— HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A SOCK IN THE MOUTH!?!
GREAT IDEA!
4-21
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE ONE OF THE FIRST 10 CALLERS!
IF YOU'RE FEELING UNEXPLAINABLE DESPAIR AND WISH TO TRANSCEND THOUGHTS OF SELF-PITY, SIGN UP FOR OUR HAPPINESS SEMINAR AND GET A FREE FRUITCAKE!
WHAT IF I'M EXTRA DESPERATE AND FEELING REALLY, REALLY SADDER THAN USUAL? CAN I GET TWO FRUITCAKES INSTEAD OF ONE?
HELLO? HELLO?!!
click click

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ANG INIT NG FAHRENHEIT 9/11!

MOSES WAS WATCHING HIS SHEEP WHEN SUDDENLY A BURNING GEORGE W. BUSH CAME RUSHING BEHIND HIM

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are very caring. Professionally, however, you demand intelligence, honesty and propriety. You very much have your finger on the public pulse. You are sensual and enjoy the pleasures of life in terms of food, drink, beauty and sex. (You even love sleep!) Major changes will take place in your life this year—good ones.
Birthdate of: Anthony Quinn, actor; Tony Danza, actor/TV host; Queen Elizabeth, British monarch.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't waste your time on arguments about religious or political matters. Quit trying to make others agree with you. Just believe in what you want to be believe.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Power struggles with children about shared possessions might take place today. It's important to defend your own best interests. It's important to make others respect what you own. (However, you must do likewise.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Disagreements about domestic matters will take place today if you're rigid and solid about something. However, if you're flexible and cooperative, then both parties will be happy.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're determined to convince co-workers about improvements that you want to see in the workplace. (It's always demoralizing when others cannot see this, especially management!) Have courage.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Money problems with children and perhaps with romantic interests could occur today. They're minor; nevertheless, they are there. Don't fault yourself: You are always generous.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): By nature you tend to be critical because you are a perfectionist. This means you often want to make others over or improve them. Try to resist this impulse today!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't be self-critical. You might hear something that confirms your worst suspicions about yourself. Forget it. It's all hogwash. (You're as wonderful as you ever were.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're prepared to stand toe to toe with a friend today in order to defend something. Don't be pushy about this. On the other hand, don't let others push you around, either.

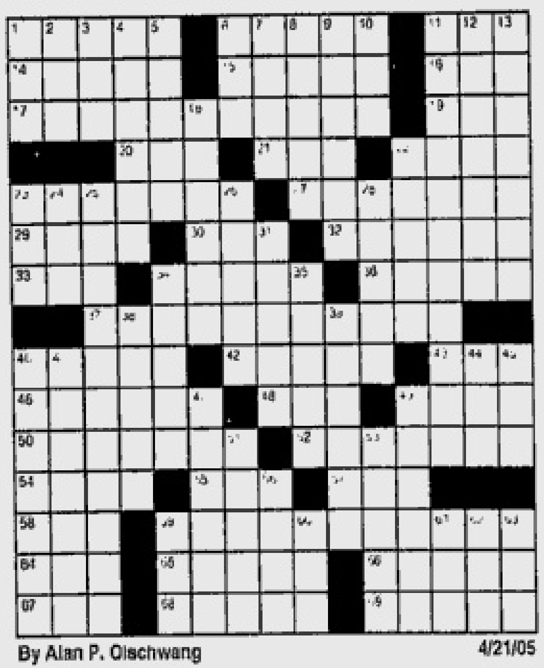
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is not the day to tell your boss or a parent how to improve things. Oh no! They don't want to hear this. Be cool. Wait until the timing is right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Religious and political arguments are likely today because people feel heated about things. But emotional arguments are just that—lots of emotion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Make sure a friend treats you fairly today. Make sure you get your fair share of something. If you have a funny feeling that something fishy is happening, it is!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't cross your boss today. Be cooperative with partners and close friends. This is not the day to advance your cause or stand up on a soapbox yelling to the crowd.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
4/21/05

ACROSS
1 River horse
6 Hawaiian veranda
11 Shad delicacy
14 Oak starter
15 Medicinal plants
16 Leb. neighbor
17 Start of George Bernard Shaw quote
19 Kimono sash
20 __ in the sky
21 Ocean off Mass.
22 Egyptian god of the sun
23 Impedes
27 Part 2 of quote
29 Approval
30 Alps' data
32 Harmonize
33 Sodden
34 Debates
36 Desert springs
37 Part 3 of quote
40 Prepared-food stores
42 Put up
43 Flow out
46 Greek letters
48 Old English letter
49 "Heat of the Moment" group
50 Part 4 of quote
52 Homer or Bart
54 Schedule figs.
55 Corrida cry
57 Actress Peeples
58 Hodges of baseball
59 End of quote
64 Forum farewell
65 Haunting
66 Paroxysm
67 Bandleader Brown
68 Matter-of-factly
69 Neighbor of Israel

DOWN
1 Hee follower
2 Treatment for swelling
3 PAC beneficiary
4 Settle up in advance
5 Studio sign
6 PC group
7 __-Romeo (Italian car)
8 Bridge position
9 Ancient Asia Minor region
10 Ending of a belief
11 Characteristic of slapstick
12 "Luther" dramatist
13 The Furies
18 All the rage
22 Essential perfume
23 Altercation
24 Get by with difficulty
25 Finks
26 "Dred" author
28 Brown ermine
31 Cubic meter
34 Pastoral people of Kenya
35 Lugas
38 Peak points
39 Sea urchins
40 Irish bay
41 Passionate
44 Brief life?
45 Prohibit
47 Noisy napper
49 Indifference
51 "The Power and the __"
53 Fine sprays
56 Zatopek or Jannings
59 Dined
60 Yo!
61 Hockey defensive great
62 French king
63 Vote for

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	T	T	I	C	■	J	A	B	S	■	C	R	I	B
T	E	R	R	A	■	A	P	O	C	■	R	A	R	E
W	H	A	T	M	O	R	E	C	A	N	I	S	A	Y
A	E	S	■	E	D	S	■	C	R	A	S	H	E	S
R	E	S	O	L	E	■	R	E	A	C	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	O	U	T	E	■	B	R	A	H	M	A
I	R	E	S	T	M	Y	C	A	S	E	■	A	O	L
B	O	L	C	■	■	P	O	S	■	■	P	L	O	T
I	L	L	■	I	M	O	U	T	O	F	H	E	R	E
S	E	S	A	M	E	■	P	I	N	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	E	D	E	S	■	E	A	S	T	E	R
M	A	I	T	A	I	S	■	S	A	T	■	A	R	I
A	N	D	I	N	C	O	N	C	L	U	S	I	O	N
S	T	L	C	■	A	P	I	A	■	R	I	N	D	S
K	E	E	N	■	L	S	A	T	■	E	S	T	E	E

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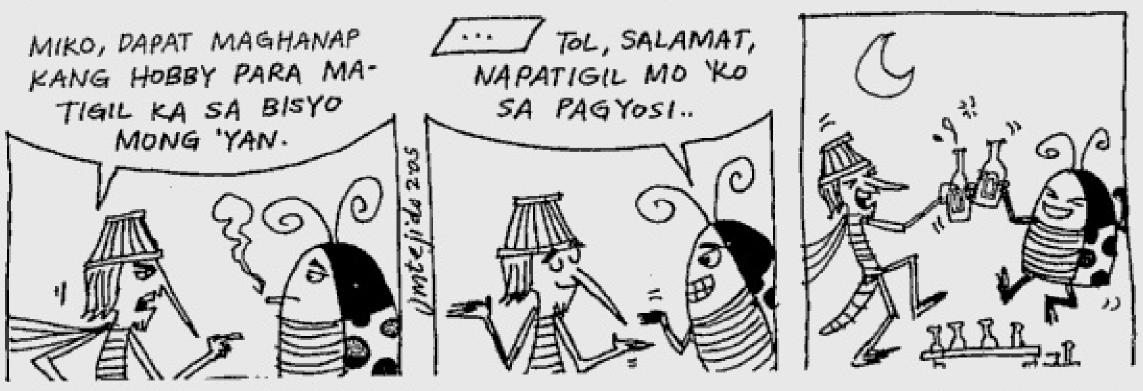
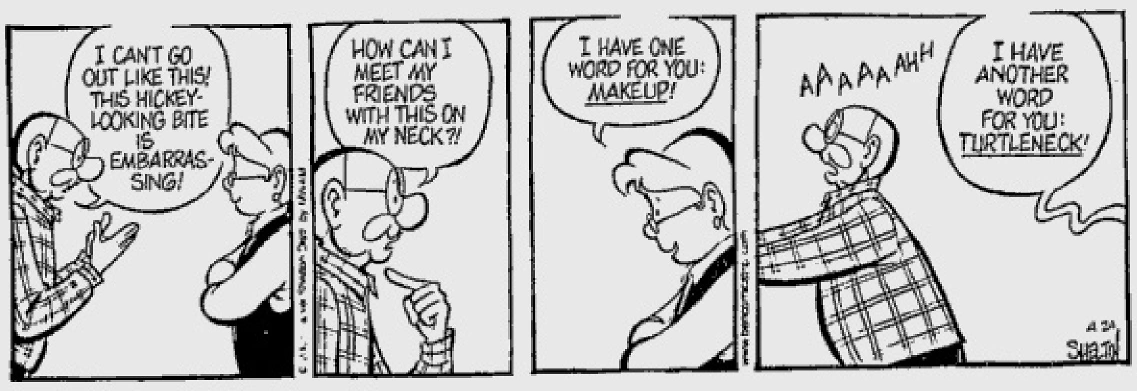
4/21/05

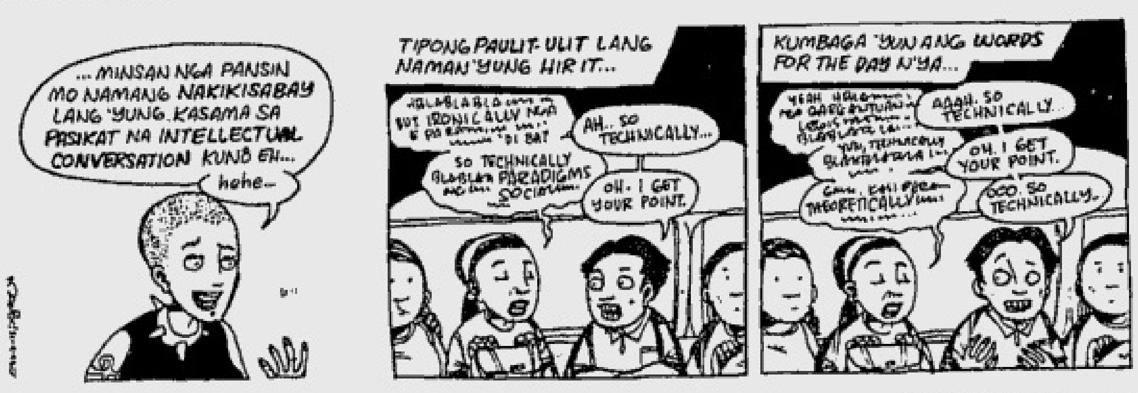
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MIKO, DAPAT MAGHANAP KANG HOBBY PARA MATIGIL KA SA BISYO MONG 'YAN.
...
TOL, SALAMAT, NAPATIGIL MO 'KO SA PAGYOSI..

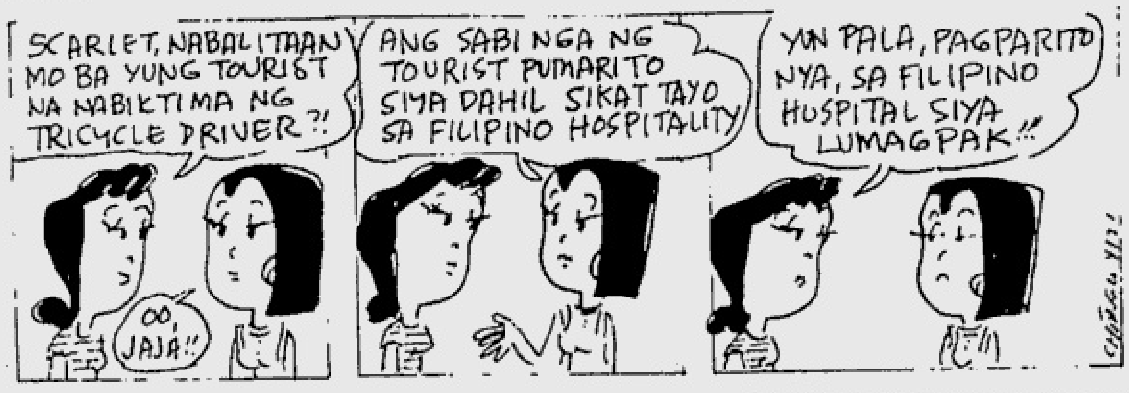
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


I CAN'T GO OUT LIKE THIS! THIS HICKEY-LOOKING BITE IS EMBARRASSING!
HOW CAN I MEET MY FRIENDS WITH THIS ON MY NECK?!
I HAVE ONE WORD FOR YOU: MAKEUP!
AAAAAAHH
I HAVE ANOTHER WORD FOR YOU: TURTLENECK!
4-21

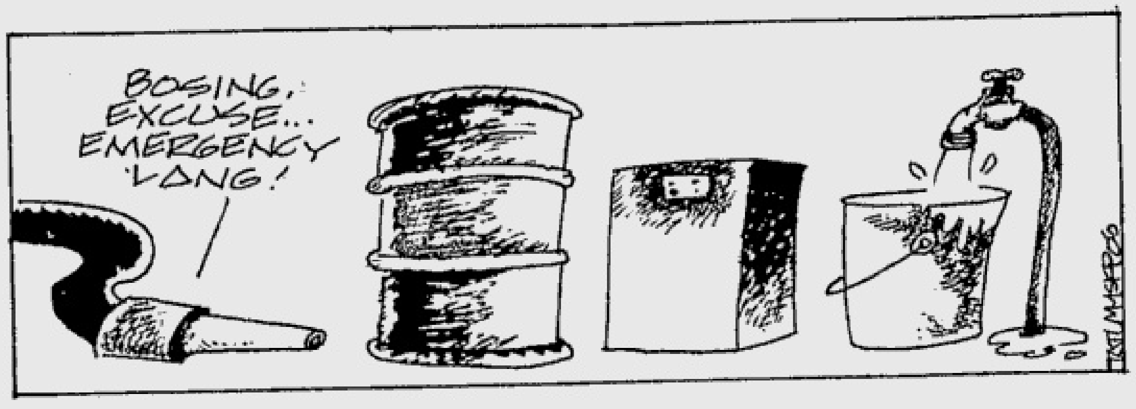
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


...MINSAN NGA PANSIN MO NAMANG NAKIKISABAY LANG 'YUNG KASAMA SA PASIKAT NA INTELLECTUAL CONVERSATION KUNG EH...
hehe..
TIPONG PAULIT-ULIT LANG NAMAN 'YUNG HIRIT...
AH.. SO TECHNICALLY...
SO TECHNICALLY ... PARADIGMS ... SOCIAL...
OH.. I GET YOUR POINT.
KUMBAGA 'YUN ANG WORDS FOR THE DAY N'YA...
AAAH. SO TECHNICALLY.
OH. I GET YOUR POINT.
...THEORETICALLY...
OOO. SO TECHNICALLY.

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, NABALITAAN MO BA YUNG TOURIST NA NABIKTIMA NG TRICYCLE DRIVER?!
OO, JAJA!!
ANG SABI NGA NG TOURIST PUMARITO SIYA DAHIL SIKAT TAYO SA FILIPINO HOSPITALITY
YUN PALA, PAGPARITO NYA, SA FILIPINO HOSPITAL SIYA LUMAGPAK!!

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BOSING, EXCUSE... EMERGENCY LANG!

CARAMEL Light

Popular beverage 'sees' the light

STARBUCKS offers customers a "light" version of the popular Frappuccino blended coffee.

The new light beverages offer the same great taste with fewer calories and fat.

Angela Cole, director for operations of Rustan Coffee Corporation, the official licensee of Starbucks in the Philippines, said Frappuccino Light allowed clients to customize their beverages in line with their lifestyles.

Frappuccino Light blended coffee will be used in two handcrafted flavors: Mocha Frappuccino Light (Starbucks coffee and rich chocolate, blended with ice) and Caramel Frappuccino Light (Starbucks coffee and caramel, blended with ice and topped with a creamy caramel drizzle).

Customers can also order light versions of other Frappuccino blended coffee flavors.

Frappuccino Light blended coffee has 30-40 percent fewer calories than the original beverage. Complete nutrition information for the new beverage is available online at www.starbucks.com.

Cole said Starbucks' beverage team worked hard to maintain the original Frappuccino flavor while addressing the need for a lighter blended beverage.

MOCHA Light

Graduation treats

CITIBANK cardholders can give new graduates a memorable and rewarding treat using their Citibank credit card at select dining establishments.

At The Red Crab in Alabang Town Center, Malate, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Tomas Morato, they will get a free Cebuano Chef's Salad or Crispy Crablets for a minimum purchase of P1,000. They get free Vietnamese Spring Rolls or Thai Iced Tea at Crustasia at the Power Plant Mall for a minimum purchase of P1,000.

At the Seafood Club in Greenbelt 3, Citibank credit cardholders get a 50-percent discount on their second bottle of wine or get a free Green Tea Panacotta for a minimum purchase of P1,000. Free Five Spice Chips may be enjoyed at Blackbeard's Seafood Island in Market! Market! for a minimum purchase of P800. You may also avail of the buy-1-take-1 offer on Pirate's Island Cocktail.

A 20-percent discount on lunch is available at the Lobby Lounge, Shang Palace and Red restaurants in Makati Shangri-La.

Cardholders can present vouchers from Citibank's newsletter, or print coupons from Citibank Online at www.citibank.com.ph.

Meanwhile, Citibank Gold and Visa Platinum cardholders get free oysters or dessert for a minimum P750 single receipt purchase at Twist in Eastwood City Libis, and Una Mas in Greenbelt 2 or Greenhills Shopping Center.

Citibank Clear cardholders get a free three-piece truffle box at Bizu in Glorietta, Greenbelt or Alabang Town Center for a minimum purchase of P500.

Offers are good until April 30.

All dining purchases charged to Citibank cards will mean three-percent bonus rebates on top of the regular cash back rates until June 30.

Call 9959999 or visit www.citibank.com.ph.

More kiddie cooking classes

VICKY Veloso-Barrera is now accepting reservations for the second group of Tiny Kitchen children's cooking classes this summer.

Classes, which will begin May 2, are conducted in her home in Quezon City.

Tiny Kitchen basic classes for kids aged 7 and up feature a full menu with main and side dishes, drink and dessert.

Advance classes are offered for those who have completed the basic, and new Around the World and Expert courses for those who have done both advance and basic.

Fee for each five-session course is P5,000, inclusive of ingredients. Students bring home everything they make. Call 4102279 or 09165165035.

Food additives/ ingredients expo

THE FIRST Food Additives and Ingredients Manila (Food AIM) food exposition will be held June 22-24 at the Philippine International Convention Center Forum.

The event is organized by the Training Institute of Manila Engineers (TIME) Foundation, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, and the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization (Philfoodex).

The Food AIM will be participated in by manufacturers, producers and distributors of high-quality food additives and ingredients.

Expected to attend are executives from research and development (R&D), purchasing, production, marketing and sales, quality assurance and control, legislation, distribution/logistics and general management of big food manufacturers, restaurants, fast-food chains, bars and grills, hotels and resorts, and other related industries.

The event will be held simultaneously with the only food and beverage engineering exhibit in the country, the 7th International Food and Beverage Engineering Expo. Exhibitors of both events will get the opportunity to showcase their products and services to visitors and participants.

Call 6870654 or 6870604. E-mail cut @pacific.net.ph or visit www.foodandbeverage-manutech.com.

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New ways to enjoy breakfast

DINING OUT

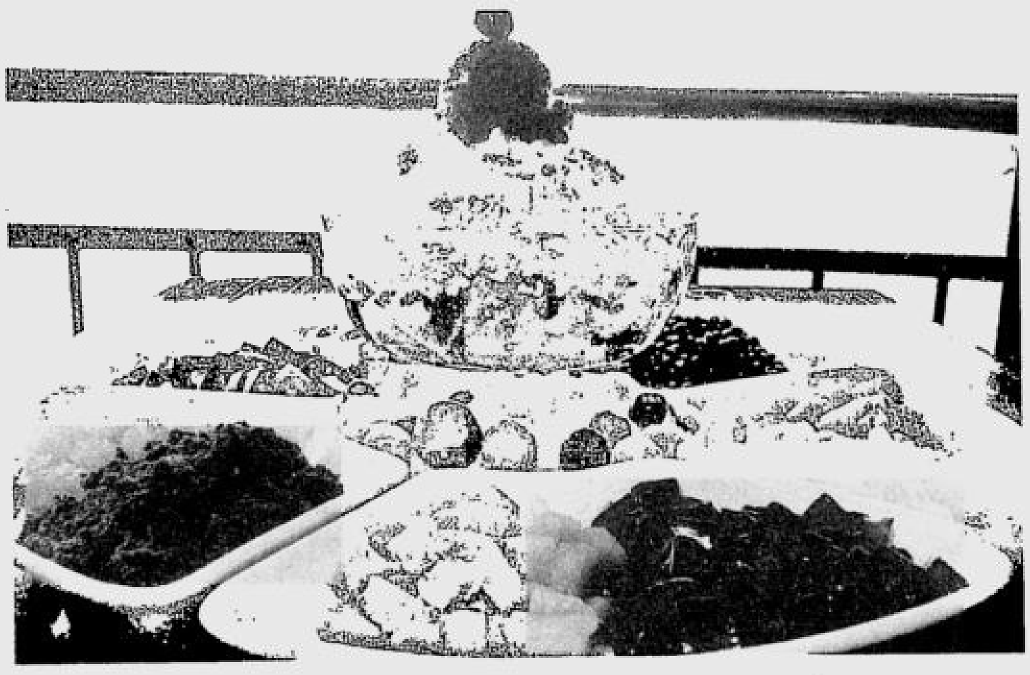
ITALIANNI'S Restaurant presents "Buon Giorno Breakfast," 16 new breakfast items initially at its Greenbelt branch beginning this month. Aside from French toasts, omelettes, smoothies, fruits, juices and freshly brewed coffee, Italianni's offers all-new breakfast platters, flapjacks, waffles and Filipino favorites. One can enjoy "breakfast like a king" with the king-sized portions daily from 7-10:30 a.m. The Spam and Eggs, Corned Beef and Eggs or Sausage and Beans are all served with traditional Filipino garlic rice, two eggs and diced fresh tomatoes. There's also Potato Fritata Italiano to satisfy your cravings. Sample the American Breakfast Platter. The all-new breakfast items will also be served at Italiannis Greenhills and Eastwood, Libis starting May 1.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Cake for April is Pineapple Dream, a caramelized pineapple-flavored cream cake surrounded with strawberry roulade, Available until April 30 at the Patisserie. Call 5261212 local 2326.

EDSA Shangri-La's Garden Café presents Tex Mex Fiesta until April 25. Tex Mex is a melting pot of tastes and styles from four continents, which crossed the borders of Texas with the arrival of Spanish and Mexican conquerors. Featured are quesadillas, tacos, tortillas, jalapeno, fajitas and margaritas. At Nishiki, indulge in Sashimi Moriawase, Ankimo and Tsumami Set. At e's, chill out with friends from 5-9 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Order two standard drinks or cocktails for the price of one. Enjoy these with crispy pata, chicken wings, potato skin with sour cream, sizzling gambas and tuna kilawin. Call 6338888.

TACO BELL offers the Double Decker Taco. The crunchy corn taco shell comes with ground beef, crisp lettuce, cheddar cheese and is wrapped in a layer of beans and soft tortilla. Taco Bell is located at the G/F of Gateway Mall, Araneta Center beside Araneta Coliseum.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel's Richmonde Grill features the following dishes for April and May: Grilled Tiger Scampi with Chive-Butter Sauce served on rice and Baby Bokchoy, Pan-Seared Lapu-Lapu crusted with Potatoes on Tomato Broth served with gourmet vegetables, Beef Tenderloin topped with gratinated oysters served with Canneloni of Vegetables napped with port wine and Roasted Chicken diced with Mashed Potato served with asparagus tower on raspberry sauce. The Lobby Cafe offers Ice-y Treats like Fresh Mango, Sweet Corn, Pineapple Lychee, Buco Pandan, Almond Lychee and Almond Black Gulaman until June 11. Call 6387777.



DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Lobby Lounge presents Ice Cream Extravaganza and Halo-Halo Buffet this month. Guests can also enjoy the drink-all-you-can red and white wines from 5:30-9 p.m. daily. At Fiesta San Miguel try Splash until April 30. Call 8673333.

DOUBLE Decker Taco from Taco Bell

Tagaytay restos going green

REGULAR guests of some of Tagaytay's best restaurants have a "healthy" reason to patronize their favorite eating places.

Josephine's Restaurant, RSM Lutong Bahay, Breakfast at Antonio's and Ka Freddie's Fame now serve Resensa Green Iced Tea, which is also now on the beverage lists of Metro Manila restaurants.

Alfonso Sarayba III, Josephine's general manager, says many of their customers usually complement their favorite seafood dishes with Resensa Green Iced Tea.

He says diners seem to love the unique flavor of Resensa which helps bring out the taste of their bestsellers like Mutya ng Cavite (the restaurant's version of the Seafood Chowder), Rockefeller Oysters, Grilled Seafood, Bagoong Rice, Grilled Prawns and Asadong Alimango.

Customers are even shifting from Josephine's own iced tea preparation to Resensa, considered a healthier alternative because it is reputed to counter the ill-effects of high-cholesterol meals.

Silvana Marquez, owner of RSM Lutong Bahay, says they have even reprinted their menu to include Resensa, which seems to be becoming a crowd-drawer like their *lutong bahay*-style Binalot (rice and viand wrapped in banana leaves), Crispy Pata and Grilled Seafood.

At Breakfast at Antonio's Resensa Green Iced Tea is served as Green Tea Slush, says Russel Octaviano, head waiter, which customers find refreshing.

Freddie Aguilar's Ka Freddie's Fame is trying Resensa Green Iced Tea as an ingredient in cocktail mixes, according to co-owner Roger Garcia.

JOSEPHINE'S at Tagaytay City now offers Resensa Green Iced Tea.

Brothers' act brings haute cuisine to your very home

BROTHERS Anton and Carlo Miguel want to make fine cuisine more readily available to Metro Manilans.

Chefs Miguel, as the brothers call their enterprise, will bring three-star meals to any location in the metropolis and to anyone who wants them. The meals served by the brothers, who trained extensively with European and Australian chefs, are normally available only in fine continental restaurants and five-star hotel food outlets.

The brothers, personal chefs for hire, prepare the meals in the homes of their clients, preparing ingredients beforehand.

Their clients, so far, include business executives, expatriates and others who appreciate fine cuisine.

The brothers take days to prepare a meal, using only fresh ingredients and the finest produce available.

For a special promotional menu they are offering until the end of June, the brothers take five to six hours of slow cooking to tenderize the oxtail they use for ravioli, which serves as entrée. Carlo, the younger of the two, says, they boil the oxtail for hours to make it really gelatinous because, unless it is processed this way, people will be unable to appreciate the rich flavor of this cut of meat. The more "exercised" the meat cut, the richer the flavor, he adds.

Offered as alternative to the Oxtail Ravioli is the Prawn and Scallop Risotto. Rich stock from the prawn heads and scallops are used to flavor the rice to bring out the dish's depth of flavor.

As main course, they offer Crisp Skin Pork Belly with Herbed Spaetzel Caramelized Apples and Caraway Scented Cabbage.

Carlo says their goal in every meal is to make the ingredients shine.

Chefs Miguel's special four-course menu, available until the end of June, is priced at P1,250 per person inclusive of all costs. It comes with a homemade espresso ice cream.

E-mail chefsmiguel@yahoo.com or call or text 0927-9140294.

Meat-cooking made easy for Filipino men

FILIPINO men who are now boldly venturing into the kitchen may find cooking meat is much easier when they use Monterey products.

Monterey offers an extensive array of meat cuts for a variety of dishes. Whether preparing *sinigang* or creating a cordon bleu dish, Monterey will help make the task less stressful.

Monterey takes every step to make its meats safe and top-rate. From the breeding and raising of hogs and cattle, to meat processing and packaging, to specialized customer care at its meat shops, the company tries to leave nothing to chance. Monterey tries to provide best quality meat products at the best prices.

The company also offers several ready-to-cook items like Crispy Pata, Sisig, Beef Tapa and Pork Tocino.

It also provides free delivery service within Metro Manila through 633-MEAT (6328).

Fresh-chilled, tender and nutritious Monterey meats are available in Monterey Neighborhood Meatshops and in leading supermarkets nationwide.

HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES: This 20-day hands on class is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking & baking This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Class begins May 3 and ends June 16, 2005. Classes are held every Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
THE ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES. This 26 – day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurants. Classes begin on May 6 and ends July 30, 2005. Classes are held every Fridays & Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.
For more information call 726-5316 or 412 7792 and ask Lirio & Rita

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

May 2,3,4,6 & 7 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.(classroom A) GUMPASTE FLOWER MAKING by: Heny Sison' A unique method of making gum paste using a foam pad, a pair of scissors and cutters. The course covers the Rose, Carnation, Stephanotis, Tulips, Filler Flowers, Cattleya, Christmas Holy, Poinsettia, Daisy, Tiger Lily and Quick Leaves. Learn how to use airbrush and edible petal dust to color the flowers and bunch them into a bouquet. Full participation. P5,000

May 2,3,4,6 & 7 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday)1:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) ADVANCED CAKE DECORATION by: Heny Sison ' This course covers baking of fruitcake, covering it with marzipan then with rolled fondant. Learn South African and Australian methods using delicate icing wings, curtainings, ribbon insertion done on rolled fondant, quilting & cut-outs. Prerequisite: MASTER IN CAKE DECORATION. Full Participation. P10,000

May 5 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) DIMSUM I by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine.' Congee, Siomai, Dumpling, Chicken Feet, Fried Shrimp Ball and Buchi. P1,500

May 7 (Saturday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m (classroom A) BASIC RESTAURANT SKILLS by: Cecile Mauricio, former editor of Mabuhay Philippines (Philippine Airlines' in-flight magazine), is a communication and marketing consultant for various restaurants." Restaurant staff who can communicate well is the key to improved sales and services. A concise workshop for new waiters and waitresses, new restaurant owners, or a refresher course for regular staff. Course outline: Communication Skills, Personality Development, Customer Service, Sales & Marketing Concepts and Service Strategies P1,500

May 9 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer' Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care & maintenance, basic form, arrangements and flower for wedding. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P2,500

May 9 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, food consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy' Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni, fettuccine: green & black, stuffings for ravioli, tortellini and cannelloni. Sauces for lasagna, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna al 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini al 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine ai Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation.P2,500

May 10 (Tuesday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! HAM MAKING WORKSHOP by: Heny SisonEach student will learn how to make Honey-Cured Ham, Sugar Glazing, and bonus recipe. P 4,000

May 11 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.(classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison' Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. P1,500

May 11 (Wednesday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) QUICK BREADS by: Heny Sison' Apple Walnut Loaf, Banana Nut Bread, Zucchini Bread, Apple-Cinnamon Muffins, Dark Moist Bran Muffins and Carrot Muffins.P1,500

May 12 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) CHINESE SEAFOOD SPECIAL by: Chef Katherine Sion' Spinach with Seafood Soup, Crab with Sotanghon, Baked Shrimp with Garlic, Steamed Lapu Lapu with Tausi Sauce, Saute Scallop with Fresh Asparagus, Saute Shellfish with Tausi Sauce, Braised Beancurd with Seafood Hot Pot and Seafood Chow Fan. P2,500

May 13 (Friday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! PICA AT PULUTAN by: Chef Dino Guingona, graduate of California Culinary Academy and at the Thai Cooking School in Chiangmai'Crispy Pata in Garlic Cream Sauce, Kilawing Tanigue, Sizzling Sisig at Kalderetang Kambing w/ Pita.P1,700

May 14 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m (classroom B) SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet) " This class will guide you through the theory and the recipes of Phase I – the strictest phase of the diet and how to prepare them in your home. All participants will be weighed at the onset of the program. Inclusive of complete menu plan, recipes and cooking demo. P2,800

May 16 (Monday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! STREETS OF NEW YORK by: Chef Joshua Tiu, Executive Chef /Owner of ZONG Restaurant located at the FortLearn a collection of recipes from Chef Joshua's favorite restos in the city of New York Restaurants: PASTIS – Sauteed Skate with Brown Butter, Moules Mariniere SALT-Tray Baked Lamb w/Veggies, Olives and Mint Oil SPICE- Green Curry of Prawns, Crispy Duck & Lychee Salad OLLIES-Stir Fried Beef and Bamboo Shoots Highlighted Bar: THE CAMPBELL APARTMENTS Drink Camp Birch P1,700

May 16 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m(classroom B) NEW CLASS! ROASTING CLASS by: Chef Ed Quimzon, is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of RASTRO Tapas Bar & Restaurant at Rockwell and Chef Ed's Restaurant at Salcedo Village, Makati City. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil. Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club' Learn from their hands-on class the treasured family recipes of Chef Ed, Roast Beef, Crown Roast of Pork, Roast Iberian Chicken, Roast Leg of Lamb with Apricot Glaze, Roast Duckling of Black Cherry & Brandy Sauce, Roast Turkey with Corn Bread, Chorizo & Chestnut Filling P4,800

May 17 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A)NEW CLASS! MOST REQUESTED KAKANIN AND DELICACIES PART I by: Chef Carol Acosta, food consultant to multinational food companies & restaurants "It covers the application of principles, procedures and techniques in the preparation of various Philippine Sweets and Delicacies including rice based products and popular sweets Recipes: Empanadang Vigan, Calamay Malolos w/ Latik Sauce, Calamay with Latik and Langka, Mochε, Espasol w/ Pinipig and Young Coconut, Suman sa Lihiya. P1,500

May 18 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m(classroom A) SAUSAGE II: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, trained at the Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School"Breakfast Meatloaf, Chicken Honey Sausage, Breakfast Sausage, Chicken Teriyaki (Marinade), Garlic Sausage, Frankfurters, Burong Mangga (Pickled item), Corned Beef, Vienna Sausage. P2,500

May 19 (Thursday)10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) FAVORITE PASTA DISHES by: Chef Jill Sandique, food consultant, food stylist, bluenbbon graduate at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. "Learn how to cook your favorite pasta dishes the easy way. Sauces to be taught in the class are the ffg: Puttanesca, Carbonara, Pomodoro, Alfredo, Bolognese and Primavera plus bonus recipes.P1,700

May 20 (Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) MEAT COOKERY by: Chef Jane Paredes"We'll teach you how to grill, broil, roast, saute, pan-fry & braise different meat products from veal, ostrich, beef, lamb & pork. Carving techniques included. Recipes: Beef Tenderloin with Spicy Tomato Sauce, Veal Scallopine with Spinach & Cheese, Chicken Marsala, Beef Wellington, Braised Lamb Shanks and Ostrich with Garlic Glazed. Full Participation. P2,500

May 21 (Saturday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! SIMPLE GOURMET by: Chef Dino Guingona 'Seared Scallops with Wild Mushrooms, Mesclun Salad with Kesong Puti in Anchovy Vinaigrette, Chilean Seabass in Miso-Mirin Marinade, Grilled Rib-eye w/ Fresh Foie Gras in Truffle Essence P1,900

May 23 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) TALKING BREADS: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique Chung Sik Bao (Chinese Buns), Meat Floss Buns, Pineapple Skin Bread, Mexican Bread, Green Tea Twist, Red Bean Twist, Peanut Twist, Jam Rolls, Pineapple Braid, Coconut Buns, Custard & Chocolate Chips, Fruit & Custard, Meat Floss & Ham Sandwich, Mixed Vegetable Braid, Bacon Bun, Spring Onion Roll, Sweet Corn & Ham, Pizza Bread, Ham & Egg and Spinach and White Sauce Bun. P2,500

May 23 (Monday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m(classroom B) NEW CLASS! MOTHER'S DAY BAKING SPECIAL FOR CHOCOLATE LOVERS by: Chef Vicky Villanueva and Chef Glenda Wee, from Stars & Bizu, this dynamic duo bring their wealth of knowledge and experience of patisseria and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operation. A Class for Mom and Child "Chocolate Macaroons, Chocolate Italian Bread, Brownies, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Chocolate Tart, Chocolate Mousse, Lace Tuiles, Chocolate Pralines, Chocolate Marble Cheesecake and Chocolate Truffle Cake. P2,000

May 24 (Tuesday)9:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m (classroom A) THE ART OF LOW FAT DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique"Individual Banana Souffle with Cinnamon Sauce, Lemon Angel Food Cake with Strawberry Compote, Devil's Food Cake with Boiled Icing, Apple Yogurt Coffee Cake, Prune & Apricot Coffee Cake, and Carrot Cake P1,500

May 24 (Tuesday)2:00 – 5:30 p.m(classroom A)LOW SUGAR DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique "Basic Chiffon Cake & its variations, Baked Cheesecake, Low-Fat Chocolate Mousse, Reduced Fat Oreo Cheesecake, Carrot Apple Muffin & Chocolate Chunk Cookies. P1,500

May 25 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m(classroom A) NEW CLASS! FAVORITE CHINESE FASTFOOD DISHES II by: Chef Katherine Sion "Lumpiang Shanghai, Meatballs w/ Sweet & Sour Soup, Fried Crispy Chicken w/ Kropek, Shrimp Relleno, Fried Stuffed Shrimp, Crabmeat Foo yong, Mixed Fried Rice, Lomi Soup, Miki Guisado, Frozen Raspberry.P2,500

May 26 (Thursday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) JAPANESE RICE TOPPING by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurantsRecipes: Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki) plus bonus recipe Chahan (Japanese Fried Rice). P1,700

May 27 (Friday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m(classroom A) COMMERCIAL BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique " Spanish Bread, Pandesal, Hotdog Bun, Pan de Coco, Choco Bread Hamburger Bun, Meat Roll & Pig Pie plus bonus recipes! P2,500

May 28 (Saturday)11:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) PAELLA Y MAS (Paellas & More!) by: Chef Ed Quimzon Recipes: Paella Negra (w/ squid ink), Paella Ala Montana, Paella Catalan (sin Tropezones), Paella Sevillana (Vegetarian), Paella Con Setas y Mejillones, Ensalada Especial & Pescado ala Sal. Full Participation. P2,500

May 30 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje' This class will guide you through the theory and the recipes of Phase I – the strictest phase of the diet and how to prepare them in your home. All participants will be weighed at the onset of the program. Inclusive of complete menu plan, recipes and cooking demo P2,800

May 30 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli"In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make dough, tomato sauce base; white sauce base preparation, set up of a pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gitana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti de Mare. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

May 31 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! MOST REQUESTED KAKANIN AND DELICACIES PART II by: Chef Carol Acosta Recipes: Kutsinta Tejada, Tibuk-Tibuk (Kapampangan), Calamay Ube, Biko, Binaki (Corn Pudding), Ube Cassava BibingkaP1,500

TUITION FEE includes ingredients.
Reservation is required.
WEDDING & BIRTHDAY CAKE orders by appointment only. We sell Cake Decorating, Confectionery and Baking Supplies.
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Website: www.henysison.com

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